

Hafa Adai!

Sex offender returns to prison for new sex crime. **PAGE 3**  
Dogs, cattle also hell to Hell of the Marianas bikers. **PAGE 6**

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## 48 Rota scholars get zilch

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

About 48 students who were supposed to get financial aid from the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation for the fall 2019 semester ended up getting nothing.

» **Lack of quorum for Rota Scholarship Foundation hinders aid**

According to Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), an estimated 48 recipients of educational assistance through the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation did not receive anything for the fall 2019 semester due to a lack of quorum at the

**See SCHOLARS on Page 4**

## WSR teacher is presidential awardee

By MARC A. VENUS  
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REPORTER

A teacher from William S. Reyes Elementary School has been chosen to receive a Presidential Excellence Award today, one of more than 50 awardees from all

over the United States.

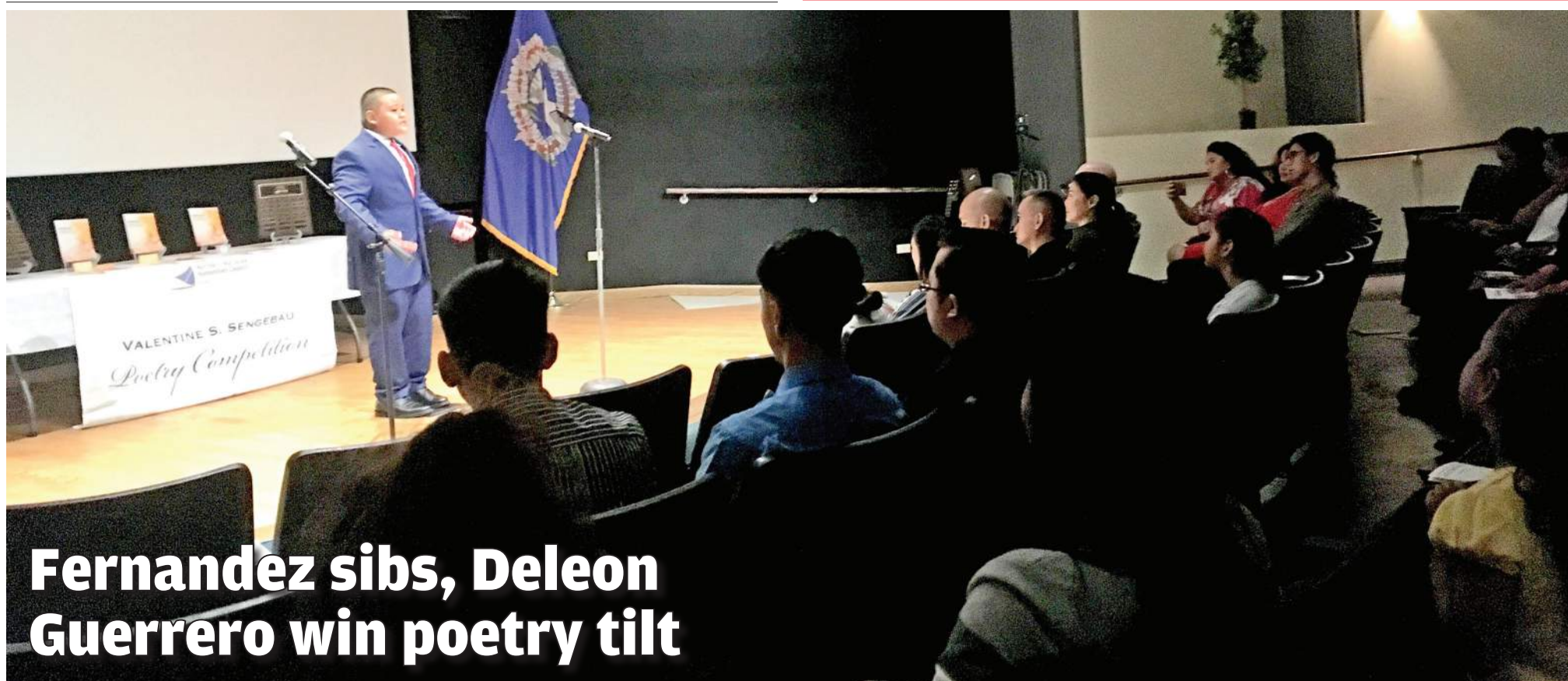
In an announcement yesterday by the White House, it said that Joseph John Muña will be one of the recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Muña was nominated by

his former principal, Naomi Nishimura. *Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from Muña but it was learned that he is currently off-island.

“On behalf of the entire CNMI Public School System, we congratulate Mr.

**See WSR on Page 4**



## Fernandez sibs, Deleon Guerrero win poetry tilt

Klin Deleon Guerrero of Francisco M. Sablan Middle School recites *The Plague*, which topped this year's Junior Division of the Sengebau Poetry Competition, held Tuesday night at the American Memorial Park theater in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Fernandez siblings Elaine and Nehemiah of Saipan Southern High School and Klin Deleon Guerrero of Francisco M.

Sablan Middle School topped this year's Sengebau Poetry Competition Tuesday night at the American Memorial Park theater in Garapan.

The Fernandezes won in the Senior Division recital with their poem, *Who*

*We Are*. Deleon Guerrero won the Junior Division recital with his rendition of Valentine N. Sengebau's *The Plague*.

The Sengebau Poetry Competition is organized annually by the Northern

**See POETRY on Page 4**

## IN JAPAN TYPHOON AFTERMATH

### More victims, more damage found

By HARUKA NUGA and  
MARI YAMAGUCHI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAGANO, Japan (AP)—

The toll of death and destruction from a typhoon that tore through central and northern Japan climbed Tuesday, as the

**See VICTIMS on Page 4**

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Ice 2 C U at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan wants to capitalize on the milk tea craze.

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### ASIA

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to surmount U.S.-led sanctions.

**PAGE 16**



### LIFE & STYLE

Everyone is on their best behavior when Julie Andrews is around.

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## Local

# Man allegedly beats up another for yelling at him

A man who allegedly beat up another person in Chalan Kanoa last June was arrested Tuesday afternoon.

Ma Kuch, 29, was arrested in Dandan for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. He was brought before Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan yesterday for bail hearing.

Bogdan allowed the temporary release of Kuch to his wife as third-party custodian on a \$5,000 unsecured bond. Preliminary hearing will be on Oct. 24 at 1:30pm.

According to police detective Lupe Ann C. Lizama, a police officer responded a call about disturbance in progress at the JYA Apartment in Chalan

Kanoa last June 24 at midnight.

Lizama stated in her report that the officer met with the victim and a witness at the scene and learned that the suspect, Kuch, had already left.

She learned that, prior to the incident, the victim and the female witness were standing and talking on the road near the JYA Apartment, when a

car that was driving recklessly almost hit the victim and the witness. The victim yelled at the driver to slow down. The driver, later identified as Kuch, made a U-turn, got out and confronted the victim.

Kuch, who was reportedly drunk, allegedly pushed the victim on the chest, then punched him repeatedly.

The witness said Kuch's wife and children were inside

the car and the wife allegedly kept apologizing to the victim and the witness.

The victim was later taken to the hospital with a 1.5-cm laceration on the left side of his head.

Lizama stated that she later interviewed Kuch on Sept. 28, during which he allegedly admitted punching the victim for yelling at him.

Lizama said that, according

to Kuch, he was driving into his parents-in-law's apartment at JYA to pick up his family when a couple were standing on the side of the road.

Kuch said the couple were drinking beer with their children in the area, which prevented him from driving through.

Kuch said he honked to alert them he was coming in. That was when the man yelled at him, he said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Kagman schools set PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman Unified Schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019, at 5:30pm in the Chacha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided. Please call the any of the three schools at 237.3150 (KagEs), 237-3165 (COVMS), or 237-3196 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. *(PR)*

#### Golf tournament fundraiser for JKPL

The 4th Annual Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Golf Tournament Fundraiser is happening on Sunday, Nov. 10, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course. Game format is Low Gross and Double Peoria, 2-Person Scramble (Men and Women). Cost to participate is \$200 entry per team. All proceeds will help support the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and its resource and collection development, circulation materials, and library programs. Last day to register is Thursday, Nov. 7, at 5pm. *(PR)*

#### IRS relief for farmers and ranchers affected by drought

The Internal Revenue Service has extended tax relief for farmers and ranchers who were forced to sell livestock due to drought, flooding, or other severe weather in recent years. Farmers and ranchers in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible for federal assistance. A list of all eligible areas in 32 states, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, can be found in Notice 2019-54. Extension of Replacement Period for Livestock Sold on Account of Drought, available on IRS.gov. More information on reporting drought sales and other farm-related tax issues can be found on IRS.gov. *(PR)*

#### Third writers' workshop set

Plan your novel with us. The third Marianas Writers' Movement workshop is on Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, from 1pm to 3pm. This workshop will focus on creating characters for the novel you'll write in November! Admission is free and open to people age 13 and over. Be a part of the Marianas Writers' Movement! This project is part of the "Rekindling Marianas Narratives: Write Your Novel!" mini-grant program and is made possible by support from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a non-profit, private corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities. *(PR)*

#### Master's degree options at UOG

Those considering a master's degree now or in the future will have an opportunity to explore 15 options available at the University of Guam through the university's Graduate Program Recruitment Fair this Thursday. The fair is open to the public and will take place from 4pm to 7pm in the Micronesian ballroom at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa.

The fair will feature tables for each of UOG's graduate programs and will also provide opportunities for attendees to speak first-hand with current graduate students and faculty. Financial aid and admissions assistance will also be available, including information on available scholarships and assistantships. Pupus will be provided. For more information, contact 735-2205 or [graduatestudies@triton.uog.edu](mailto:graduatestudies@triton.uog.edu). *(PR)*

#### Saipan writers' workshop on Saturday

A Saipan writers' workshop called "Little Flights of Fancy" World Tour will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019, at the

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, to be led by local author Walt Goodridge.

In this interactive three-hour workshop, Goodridge will share step-by-step instructions on how to start your book project, publish independently, and go from idea to sales. Goodridge is author of over two dozen books in a variety of genres.

This unique workshop will be held from 9am to 12pm, at the JKPL's video teleconference room. Admission is \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door (20% percent of admission proceeds will be donated to the library on the day of the event).

Seating is limited. To register, visit the front desk of the library as soon as possible. For more information, visit [www.saipanwriters.com](http://www.saipanwriters.com). *(PR)*

#### Business Expo 2019 on Nov. 9

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its newly reinstated Chamber Business Expo on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 9am to 4pm at the Saipan World Resort. The goal is for Chamber members to showcase their company and new products and services to the local market.

To sign up to be an exhibitor:

1. Visit and download the application packet on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce website at [www.saipan-chamber.com/events](http://www.saipan-chamber.com/events) in the Events Page.

2. Complete and submit applications with payment to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the third floor, Suite 315 of the Marianas Business Plaza or email to [coordinator2@saipan-chamber.com](mailto:coordinator2@saipan-chamber.com).

3. Registration is currently open and deadline for applications is Friday, Nov. 1, 2019, by 5pm.

Reservations for booths are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact Noelani McMahon at [coordinator2@saipan-chamber.com](mailto:coordinator2@saipan-chamber.com) or call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150. *(PR)*

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# Sex offender returns to prison for new sex crime

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A registered sex offender, who is currently being accused of

## Animal protection bill passes House anew

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A third attempt at legislation to protect animal rights in general unanimously passed the House of Representatives Tuesday afternoon.

The House and its 16 members present during the House session Tuesday on Capitol Hill passed Rep. Edwin K. Propst's (Ind-Saipan) third iteration of an animal rights protection bill, House Bill 21-59, HD1.

The bill now goes to the Senate for similar passage.

The legislation makes it a misdemeanor to violate the proposed law, punishable by a fine of not more than \$500, plus 250 hours of community service at an animal shelter or related animal care organization. The punishment will be imposed on people who are mistreats, abandons, or neglects any animal.

The legislation also imposes heavier consequences if the animal dies or suffers bodily injury as a result of the violation; if the violation involves extreme malice; if the person has a prior conviction for a previous similar violation; or if the person engages or promotes dogfighting. The violation makes it a misdemeanor offense and includes a fine of at least \$500 but not more than \$1,000 and 500 hours of com-

sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl last year, pleaded guilty Tuesday in the Superior Court and was slapped with a two-year prison term.

munity service at an animal shelter or care organization.

The legislation also allows the CNMI courts to order the defendant suspected of the violation to participate in an available animal cruelty prevention or education program, or obtain psychological counseling to treat mental health problems contributing to the violation, with the defendant responsible for the costs, among other things.

The legislation further allows the seizure, hearing, and disposition of animals if there is a probable cause to believe that any animal has been involved in violent and cruel acts, including the use of reasonable force to enter private property, including vehicles, to rescue an animal.

Exemptions in the legislation include conduct consistent with traditional customs or cultural practices—including slaughter for personal consumption and cockfighting; legal hunting, fishing, or trapping practices; self-defense from reasonable threat of an attack by an animal; lawful research or teaching; or an accepted method of controlling rodents, pests, or snakes.

The fines collected in the legislation will go directly to the municipality from which it was fined, with the expenditure authority going to the mayors.

Benjamin Mafnas Hattori, 41, pleaded guilty to violation of the Sex Offender Registry and domestic violence: disturbing the peace as part of a plea deal with the government.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio sentenced Hattori to three years in prison, with one year suspended, the remaining to be served without the possibility of parole or early release.

Hattori was given credit for time served; he was arrested on Dec. 12, 2018.

After completing his

prison term, Hattori will be placed on five years of probation, during which he will be prohibited from having any contact with the girl.

He was required to write a letter of apology to the victim and perform 100 hours of community service. During his probation, he is not allowed to possess or consume any alcoholic beverages.

As part of the plea deal, the remaining charge—sexual abuse of a minor in the second

degree—was dropped.

Assistant public defender Stephanie Boutsicaris represented the defendant; assistant attorney general Samantha Vickery prosecuted the case.

Hattori is registered on Saipan as a Tier 3 sex offender. On Nov. 21, 2018, he resided with a woman and her four minor children in Garapan.

According to the plea deal, Hattori entered the victim's bedroom repeatedly on Nov.

21, 2018, and inappropriately touched her thigh and kissed her cheek, causing the girl to feel scared.

Hattori was convicted in Guam of 3rd degree criminal sexual conduct as a second-degree felony in September 2002. The victim in that case was a 15-year-old girl.

Hattori then relocated to Rota.

In October 2015, a jury acquitted Hattori of burglary, but Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho convicted him of theft and criminal mischief in connection with the burglary of a store on Rota owned by former mayor Melchor Mendiola.



Kim-Tenorio

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**IT&E**



## VICTIMS

From Page 1

government said it was considering approving a special budget for the disaster response and eventual reconstruction.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a parliamentary session that the number of deaths tied to Typhoon Hagibis had climbed to 53 and was expected to rise, as at least another nine people are presumed dead. Japan's Kyodo News agency, citing its own tally, put the death toll at 69.

Abe pledged to do the utmost for the safety and rescue of those missing or those who had to evacuate.

"We put the people's lives first," he said.

Hagibis hit Japan's main island on Saturday with strong winds and historic rainfall that caused more than 200 rivers to overflow, leaving thousands of homes flooded, damaged or without power. Rescue crews on Tuesday were still searching for those missing, thought to number about 20.

Some 34,000 homes were without power and 110,000 lacked running water. More

than 30,000 people were still at shelters as of late Monday, according to the Cabinet Office's latest tally.

Business appeared nearly back to normal in central Tokyo, and residents in areas where floodwater subsided started cleaning up. Lives, however, remained paralyzed in Nagano, Fukushima and other hard-hit areas that were still inundated.

Some residents in Nagano returned to their homes, only to find they not be habitable.

Retired carpenter Toshitaka Yoshimura, who grew up in the Tsuno district of Nagano, was stunned when he returned to his home after staying at an evacuation center during the storm. His house was a mess. Doors were knocked out, his handmade furniture was tossed around and damaged,

and everything from a futon to electronics were broken and covered with mud.

"I put a lot of effort in this house. I made all the furniture with my wife. Now look what happened in one day," he said, with his voice trembling with emotion. "Now this makes me want to cry."

At least some of his memorable photos with his family and relatives were intact, along

with toys and games that his younger relatives played when they gathered at his house.

"I'm glad they survived at least," said his nephew Kazuki Yoshimura. "Perhaps we can still do something about the house, but nothing can be more precious than life."

In Fukushima, 11 bags containing possibly radioactive soil and debris removed as part of decontamination efforts from the 2011 meltdown of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant were washed from two outdoor temporary storage sites and found downstream, the Environment Min-

istry said. Most of the remaining 5,000 bags stacked up at the two sites—one in Tamura city and another in Iitate—remained in place.

There was no risk to the environment because the waterproof bags were intact and hadn't leaked, the ministry said. It said, however, officials will take preventive measures ahead of future rainstorms.

A massive number of such bags are still being kept at 760 similar sites across Fukushima. Their transfer to a longer-term storage facility near the plant is expected to be completed by March 2022.



A vehicle and debris are tangled up around a tree at an apple orchard after Typhoon Hagibis passed through the neighborhood Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019, in Nagano, Japan.

## WSR

From Page 1

Muña on his recognition and outstanding service to the students of William S. Reyes Elementary School and PSS," said Education Commissioner Glenn Muña in a statement.

Awardees come from school in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity schools, and schools in the U.S. territories of Guam, the CNMI, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Nominations and awards are facilitated by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science Foundation.

U.S. President Donald J. Trump announced the recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science

Teaching and the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring yesterday, CNMI time.

The individuals and organizations announced are 2017 and 2018 recipients. This presidential award is for K-12 teachers.

Established in 1983, PAEMST is the highest award given by the U.S. government to Kindergarten to 12th grade teachers of mathematics and science, including computer science.

A panel of mathematicians, scientists, and educators at the state and national levels assess the applications before recommending nominees to OTSP.

Teachers are selected based on their distinction in the classroom and dedication to improving science, technology, engineering, and math education.

## POETRY

From Page 1

Marianas Humanities Council to honor the legacy of Valentine N. Sengebau, a Palauan poet who made the CNMI his adopted home. Now on its 16th year, the competition also supports the works of young Micronesian poets.

CNMI first lady Diann Torres, who was one of the competition judges, said the event gives children the opportunity to learn about their language and culture, and to advance their public speaking skills.

"[This competition] allows them to practice speaking in bigger groups compared to what they are used to in their classrooms, and to come out and do things outside of the box, outside of homework, school, and family events," Torres added.

Humanities Council executive director Leo Pangelinan said the competition is a way to promote poetry in the CNMI as a form of expression, and gives the community an opportunity to experience the presentation of the spoken word.

One of the night's competitors, Anhkiet Huynh, who

is a senior in Kagman High School, said, "This competition is very important...to let everyone know what our perspective is on the change and identity of the CNMI today."

Huynh competed with his original piece, *CNMI, We Have a Problem*.

Students who competed in the junior division were judged based on their performance of their chosen piece from Sengebau's anthology of poems, *Microchild*, which was published in 2004. Aside from performance, students who competed in the senior division were judged on content, as they had to write their own original poetry.

Aside from Deleon Guerrero, other junior division recital winners are FMS' Aleeza Castro, with her delivery of *Searching*, and Dandan Middle School's Issa Teigita, with the poem *Ngedeloch*, who both placed second, and DMS' Oceana Teigita, who, with her delivery of *The Plague* placed third.

In the Senior Division recital, Malinao Palacios, who delivered *Who Are We?*, and Kiran Shrestha who delivered *Of Many*, both of Tinian Jr/Sr High School, placed second and third place, respectively.



Electricity workers work in a neighborhood devastated by Typhoon Hagibis Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019, in Nagano, Japan.

## SCHOLARS

From Page 1

foundation board.

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig affirmed yesterday that only two of the five seats on the foundation board are filled.

The current foundation board members are Agida Quituga and Sharon Manglona.

Atalig said he submitted yesterday morning to the Rota Legislative Delegation the names of his three nominees to the foundation board.

"It is true that the board is

lacking in its quorum. [Yesterday] morning I appointed three of them to join the other two [Quituga and Manglona]. The letter has been prepared and to be transmitted to the [Rota] delegation for confirmation," Atalig told *Saipan Tribune*.

It was learned Tuesday afternoon that Santos had been concerned about the lack of quorum on the foundation board and she had written to the Rota mayor about this.

Every CNMI board must at least meet a quorum, depending on the maximum num-

ber of members, to conduct official business. A quorum is the minimum number of members that constitutes a simple majority, e.g. the quorum for seven-member board is five members. In this case, the quorum for a five-member board is three members.

According to Santos, the RMSF has not had a quorum for several months. She told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview that it was reported to her that the board has not met since summer this year.

"...It is already halfway through the fall 2019 semes-

ter and scholarship recipients have yet to receive any financial assistance. Furthermore, House Bill 21-78...appropriates \$100,000 to the RMSF," she noted in her letter.

The House unanimously passed yesterday House Bill 21-78, a bill that appropriates a total of over \$11.5 million government-wide.

"It is therefore important that appointments are identified so, upon passage of the House bill and its enactment into law, the board is ready to act and disburse funds," she added in her letter.





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# Dogs, cattle also hell to Hell of the Marianas bikers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

People are being urged to keep their dogs leashed and their cows behind fences to ensure the safety of the many cyclists

who would be training for the upcoming annual Hell of the Marianas.

Speaking during Tuesday's Marianas Visitors Authority board meeting, MVA chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said she

may sound like a broken record as far as the Hell of the Marianas is concerned but MVA really need to work with the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Department of Public Safety for the safety of bikers.

Aldan-Pierce recalled that she was with a group of bikers going through the Capital Hill area when they were chased by a pit bull. She said they stopped and didn't know what to do because it was not just the pit bull, but about seven other dogs that have been aroused by the commotion.



**Aldan-Pierce**

She said the fact that the dogs were not leashed is very dangerous because a lot of Hell of the Marianas bikers will be training before the actual race.

Aldan-Pierce said there was also a "stupid cow" in Marpi that recently injured two cyclists when it suddenly crossed the road. She noted another incident when a lawyer crashed his bicycle because the cattle came running out of the nearby jungle.

Aldan-Pierce said majority of cattle owners have grazing permits, which means that

these cows should be behind a fence. She recalled that the cows were freely roaming around Marpi several years ago, prompting them to complain to the Department of Public Lands secretary.

"The secretary of Public Lands came out and said, 'If you guys don't keep your cows behind the fence, it's open season.' The next day, all the cows disappeared," Aldan-Pierce said.

Aldan-Pierce said these incidents are dangerous to bikers, so they have to start

making announcement advising people to keep their cows behind fences and their dogs in their properties.

Hell of the Marianas, a 100-kilometer bike race that started in 2007, is a yearly signature event of the MVA that boasts of stunning views from Saipan's northern to southern tips.

The event is considered the "ultimate race" in the CNMI, with professional athletes from South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Russia, China, Australia, the Philippines, and elsewhere participating.

» **MVA chair warns of stray dog on Capital Hill, cow in Marpi**

## CHCC on overdrive in fight vs entry of dengue virus

By **MARC A. VENUS**  
marc\_venus@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is working double time in its dengue fever awareness campaign ever since the CNMI saw its first-ever dengue case last August.

Speaking at Tuesday's meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at Hyatt Regency Saipan, CHCC Public Health medical director Dr. Phuon Luu urged the club and those on the business sector to stock up on an adequate supply of anti-mosquito products to prevent the spread of the dengue virus in the community.

Dengue is primarily transmitted through mosquito bites.

As to what the CNMI business community can do to prevent the disease, Luu described three things that can be done, the first being to provide an adequate amount

of anti-mosquito products, the second is to consider creating mosquito repellent kits that supplies the vulnerable population or those who currently live in tents, and to create convenient dump sites for debris or possible breeding areas for mosquitoes.

Luu said that the biggest challenge to avoiding dengue fever is a lack of mosquito repellent, as she had conversations about this. Another concern is the weather, since it is currently the rainy season in the CNMI, which means the possibility of mosquitoes breeding is higher, as they breed in wet conditions.

Bureau of Environmental Health director John Tagabuel, who also spoke at the Rotary meeting, said that BEH is working with the Saipan Mayor's Office and other government agencies to ensure that the dumping of typhoon debris

must be in a safe area, where BEH and its partners can safely remove the debris and keep the area from becoming a mosquito breeding site.

As of Oct. 11, there have been 15 cases of dengue fever in Guam, with nine local cases and six being imported. Luu said that CHCC is making all efforts to keep the possibility of an outbreak away from the CNMI as much as possible.

Tagabuel said that the BEH has been inspecting possible vector breeding sites since September and have completed their inspections in Koberville. He said that BEH is currently holding inspections at the Afetnas area and some parts of San Antonio.

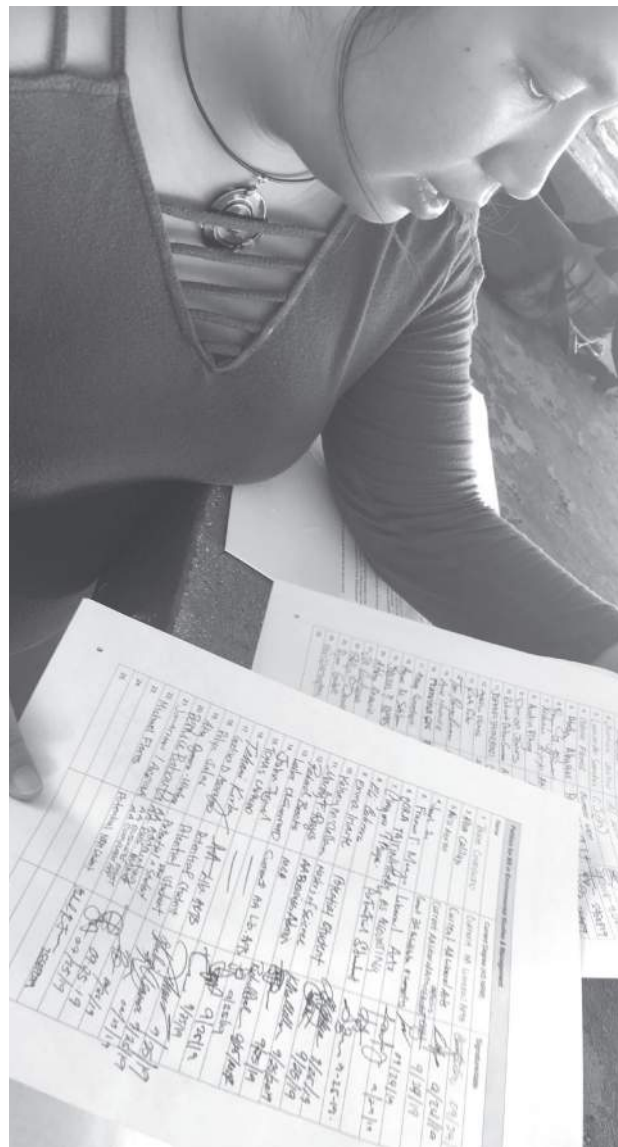
Luu said that there are two types of mosquitoes that can transmit the disease and that only one of the two is present in the CNMI. This mosquito is known to bite in the

morning hours.

If you just came from a country that has a dengue outbreak, Luu said the best time to see a doctor would be around the 14-day period after the traveler returns and if the traveler is experiencing any of the symptoms of dengue. "The two-week period is the most crucial as this is the period in which the fever can be transmitted," Luu said.

Symptoms of dengue include sudden high fevers, severe headaches and pain behind the eyes, severe joint and muscle pain, fatigue, nausea and vomiting, and a skin rash that appears two to five days after the onset of the fever.

The CNMI has seen a total of two imported cases of the dengue fever, with the first last Aug. 8 and the second last Sept. 6. Both patients have been treated and are safe from transmitting the dengue fever.



### PETITION FOR A NEW COURSE

IVA MAURIN

Zabrina Mae Shai shows some of the signatures gathered for the ongoing petition for the Northern Marianas College to develop a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Management and Environmental Studies curriculum.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**

Division of Coastal Resources Management

P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

[www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)

**Eli D. Cabrera**  
Administrator, BECQ

**Janice E. Castro**  
Director, DCRM

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### LATTE STONE HOTEL PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2019-X-060

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Latte Stone Hotel project in Garapan, Saipan.

The Li Xu, LLC is proposing to construct and operate the proposed Latte Stone Hotel along Puti Tainobu Avenue in Garapan, Saipan. The proposed development is a 4-story hotel building with four 1-bedroom guest rooms, reception and lobby area, a retail space on the first floor, a combination of 1 to 3-bedroom guest rooms on the second and third floor, and seven 1-bedroom guest rooms on the fourth floor. Total rooms for this development is 57 with a total parking spaces of 24. The project will be situated on two leased private properties identified as Lot Nos. 004 D 29, measuring a total of 929 sq. m. and 004 D 030, measuring a total area of about 929 sq. m.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 5PM, at the BECQ main conference room, 2nd Floor**, on Middle Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Latte Stone Hotel project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro  
Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

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**Eli D. Cabrera**  
Administrator, BECQ

**Janice E. Castro**  
Director, DCRM

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### TACHOGNYA QUARRY PERMIT APPLICATION NO. TMS-2019-X-048

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Tachognya Quarry operation in Tachognya, Tinian.

The GPPC, Inc. is proposing to operate a quarry operation in Tachognya, Tinian. GPPC, Inc. anticipates to produce aggregates of different sizes including manufactured sand. The operation will consist of a cement batching plant, an asphalt batching plant, and an office with an onsite generator. Staging of the quarry materials will be situated at Carolinas, Tinian.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 4:30PM. Venue for this hearing will be announced at a later date.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Tachognya Quarry project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro  
Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**

**ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-001**

**SUBMISSION DATE: November 12, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

### “PAHONG ST. IMPROVEMENT PROJECT”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 28, 2019, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 5, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **JAMES A. ADA**  
SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



# Emergency water outage in Upper Dandan, Obyan

There will be a scheduled emergency water service interruption for customers along the upper Dandan homestead to the areas

of Obyan today, Oct. 17, from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the affected areas should expect

restoration of water service soon after.

The water service interruption will allow CUC's water

operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged 8-inch main line break located in front of DBM Fish Mart in Dandan.

For the safety of CUC's men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution when

traveling through the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). **(PR)**

## Tropical disturbance could affect CNMI next week

A tropical disturbance could affect the Marianas by early next week.

The U.S. National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam reported yesterday that a tropical disturbance forming southeast of Majuro will move west-northwest and would eventually head toward the Marianas by early next week.

This disturbance will bring showers to the Marshall Islands through Thursday, then on to Kosrae and Pohnpei by Friday. The models show that the disturbance will head west-northwest through this weekend.

In addition, the NWS reported a tropical disturbance west of the Marianas that is right now the subject of a Tropical Cyclone Formation

Alert by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center.

That means it could develop into a tropical storm within

the next 24 hours, but this disturbance currently poses no threat for the Marianas or west Micronesia as it could

move away from the islands in the region.

NWS also reports that a monsoon pattern has been

brewing for several days with a trough situated just north of Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae. A weak circulation was located northeast of Pohnpei. Numerical model forecasts

indicate little or no development of the circulation in the coming days, meaning no threats to the CNMI with this monsoon pattern. **(Marc A. Venus)**

## Local Lions Clubs mourns passing of membership chair

Nenita V. Marquez, one of the Lions Clubs International, District 204 Region 2 officers, passed away last Oct. 11 at the age of 77.

Marquez was an active member of the Lions Clubs for six years and served as the membership chair of the Saipan Centennial Lions Club. She also was a Melvin Jones Fellow recipient.

"We call her our Lion Mother since she was, indeed, a mother to most of us, not just in Lions Clubs but even in the community," said Region 2 chair Annamae Adaza. "She was also one of the volunteers of the mobile consular [outreach] of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam."

A 6pm nightly rosary, headed by the Sto. Nino Group, is being held by Marquez's family, relatives, and friends at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

"No words can adequately express our sadness for her death and we thank the family, relatives, friends, Legion of Mary group, Zion Choir, [United Filipino Organization], and Lions Clubs International District 204 for the great support and assistance," said Saipan Centennial Lions Club president Arceli Lizama.

The family will be repatriating Marquez's remains to the Philippines and will advise the public of the viewing once the flight is confirmed. **(Iva Maurin)**



## 7 GCA students bag top awards at NJSDA contests

All of the seven Grace Christian Academy students that participated in the National Junior Speech and Debate Association's first monthly competition in September have won top awards.

Almost all of the GCA competitors are in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, except one. That means it was their first time to compete in this league. Despite only a few days to prepare, all of them emerged as winners in one or two of the events in

which they competed.

Janus Roman Calayo, a first-timer at the NJSDA and sixth grader, won two first place in his events, and seventh grader Jennifer Woo, the only student who is not a first-time competitor in the league, won first and second place in her events. Both of these students have been competing in the Primary Grades Forensic competition since elementary grade at GCA, which prepared them to compete at the

junior high school level.

More GCA students will be joining the next monthly competitions to hone their public speaking as well as reading and writing skills.

NJSDA competitions encourage public and private school students to participate in and become proficient in reading, public speaking, debate, and interpretations. **(PR)**

The winners were:

**Impromptu Speech**

□ Janus Roman Calayo, 1<sup>st</sup>

Place

□ Jacqlene Troi Torres, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

□ Jaclyn Rose Davis, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

□ Vaniqa Marie Torres, 4<sup>th</sup> Place

**Extemporaneous Speech**

□ Janus Roman Calayo, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

□ Earljean Jonathan Pantaleon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

□ Apollo Benjamin Sicad, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**Declamation**

□ Jennifer Woo, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Dramatic Interpretation**

□ Jennifer Woo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

**Prose Reading A**

□ Jaclyn Rose Davis, 4<sup>th</sup> Place

NSDA coach/coordinator:

Grace Duran

Competition registrar: Esther Manzano

Judge: Desolee Calayo

# How's Your Hearing?

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■ **Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>** 9:00am - 4:00pm  
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**Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS**  
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# ‘Climate change is really upon us now’

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

From the perspective of open-ocean sailors—called grand master navigators—who know how to chart their courses at sea without modern tools, who rely on a deep knowledge of the seas, the waves, the stars, and the winds when crossing the vast Pacific Ocean, they know that climate change is taking place, that it is real.

For grand master navigator Ali Haleyalur of Yap, that climate change reality is as harsh as the fact that not doing anything about it now will have tragic consequences for humanity's future.

Which is why he is calling on everyone, especially the leaders and people who have knowledge about climate change to take up the fight or the islands will be underwater.

“We have to do something, especially us on Pacific islands, [who are] from low-lying islands. We need to do something, and this is the time to stand up and do something,” Haleyalur said.

What that something may not be defined yet but he believes that not doing anything is not an option. When ocean navigators like himself talk about climate change, “it seems like nobody listens but



Grand master navigator Ali Haleyalur, seated, third from left, has his picture taken with fellow master navigators, community leaders, and young environmental advocates.

IVA MAURIN

it really is here with us.”

He attests that, in sailing the open seas, storms and typhoons are becoming more frequent and more intense, and he believes it is because of climate change.

On top of that, island nations such as the CNMI also have to think about sea level rise. King tides now regularly inundate the Republic of the Marshall Islands and other atoll nations. Scientists have predicted that, depending on

the energy policies that would be put in place, global mean sea level would rise at least eight inches by 2100.

“When I go back home, I really see the impact of climate change there because I know exactly where the land is, and the last line of trees,” Haleyalur said. “The coconut trees that used to be near the shore are not there anymore. It is being eroded out.”

Haleyalur blames carbon policies of large countries and

the pollution that they create for the creeping rise in sea levels. “Everything is now totally changed, and I blame them. I blame the big countries for this climate change. I think they are the cause of them because they don’t care about us. They just look at [us]; we are small, so [to them,] ‘Never mind these people; they are nothing.’”

Aside from pollution, Haleyalur also expressed concerns about the sustainability of the islands’ marine resources, given the big vessels that

are coming to the islands to take its fish.

“When we go out into our ocean, we know how many fish we should get to feed the communities. We always reserve [some fish as] we do not want to deplete all our resources. We have a limit to it, meaning we can control it by ourselves,” he said.

Haleyalur advocates going back to traditional skills, and ensuring that the islands hold tightly to the knowledge of building canoes and learning navigation. That way, if push

comes to shove and the islands become submerged under the sea, there will be voyaging canoes that the CNMI could use to transport its people to higher grounds, he said.

“We were born as ocean people, and we know how to take care of our resources in the water, how to protect it. I wish the community is thinking the same as we all think about how important this climate change is, for us to do something. If we do not do anything now, it will be too late.”

## House OKs Senate changes to \$11.5M spending bill

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has accepted the Senate’s changes to legislation that appropriates the remaining \$11.5 million of the \$15.5 million Casino License Renewal Fee payment for fiscal year 2019.

In a unanimous vote that was marred by some members expressing reservations, the House accepted during Tuesday’s session the Senate version of Rep. Ivan A. Blanco’s (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-78, which seeks to appropriate the remaining \$11.5 million from the Casino License Renewal Fee.

The legislation now heads to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for enactment.

It allocates \$290,000 for Rota Legislative Delegation obligations to the general fund; \$220,000 for the monthly subsistence allowance of 126 Rota dialysis and terminally ill patients for May through October 2019; \$65,000 for the Rota interisland medical referral patients and escort stipends; \$50,000 for the partial payment to Sun Palace Rota patient’s lodging costs; \$15,000 for vehicle maintenance for the Rota Liaison Office on Saipan; \$25,000 for the

Rota Health Center; \$40,000 for a new van for the Rota Medical Referral patients on Saipan; \$100,000 to the Rota Gaming Casino Commission; \$100,000 for the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation; \$10,000 for the Rota Municipal Council, for equal distribution among the councilmen; and \$85,000 for Rota Mayor’s Office operations.

The Rota Legislative Delegation allocations total \$2 million.

The legislation further allocates \$1 million to the Northern Mariana Islands Settlement Fund for the partial payment of the fiscal year 2017 payment due for a previous Settlement Agreement; \$3 million to the Public School System; \$1 million each to the Northern Marianas College and the Marianas Visitors Authority; \$500,000 to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.; and the remaining \$4.5 million balance allocated to the outstanding payments owed to vendors for services immediately following Super Typhoon Yutu in late October 2018.

Senate changes to the legislation also included mandating the Finance secretary to submit to legislative leaders a

detailed expenditure report on the distribution of the appropriated funds within 30 days of any distribution of funds within the legislation.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) noted during discussions on this particular section of the bill that the reporting requirement is too vague, since the House substitute version of the legislation listed a very specific breakdown of the money trail.

The Senate changes merely required the Finance secretary to report within 30 days “any distribution of funds pursuant to this act.”

Also, in order to satisfy Public Law 20-10, or the local mandate that splits the \$15 million among the delegations—\$2 million to the Rota and Tinian delegations, respectively, and \$11 million to the Saipan delegation, with \$1.5 million going to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program—the Finance secretary is required to certify to the Legislature the availability of any additional collections above the projected resources for fiscal year 2020 for designation to the delegations, until the \$10 million owed to the delegations is fully satisfied.

## OIA: Infrastructure essential to economic growth

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Office of Insular Affairs notes in a new report that the growth and diversification of the CNMI economy will ensure its economic sustainability and, in order to achieve that, improving its infrastructure is essential.

Toward this end, OIA said that it has been working with the CNMI government over the years to support the development of infrastructure and special initiatives.

“This investment in infrastructure to support economic growth has proven essential in the efforts of the CNMI to recover after the devastation of [Super] Typhoon Yutu,” states the report, which was submitted to U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources chair Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) last Oct. 1, 2019.

“The goal of achieving greater fiscal self-sufficiency and economic sustainability for the CNMI is dependent on the growth and diversification of its economy,” the report stated.

Economic growth, the report further noted, is dependent on a modern and well-

maintained infrastructure, along with the capacity of local institutions and the workforce to meet and often exceed marketplace requirements.

“Economic growth and diversification are a complex and heavy lift for the CNMI, and OIA has consulted with the [U.S.] Department of Commerce on actions it has undertaken to support the CNMI,” the report noted, adding that the Department of Commerce has a broader and deeper range of programs to support economic growth and diversification.

Technical assistance programs offered by the OIA and DOC to the CNMI government for economic growth and diversification include the Ma’afala Breadfruit Farming Program Initiative, which aims to create a program that will grow and monitor 6,000 breadfruit seedlings across the CNMI, allowing it to be studied in its growing environment through Geographic Positioning Systems and plotting devices.

The Rota Mayor’s Office received a technical grant to continue the Rota Aquaponics Initiative. Aquaponics creates jobs, food, and possibly an

exportable product unique to the CNMI.

The Department of Public Works received a technical assistance grant to expand the current capabilities of the government-run recycling facility, to include the redemption of aluminum cans and the recycling of rubber tires off-island. Through this grant, four recycling technicians will work primarily on the aluminum redemption side.

The U.S. Department of the Interior created the report as required under Public Law 115-218 or the NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, which mandated the department to submit a report describing how it assists the CNMI in terms of identifying opportunities for economic growth, providing assistance in recruiting, training, and hiring U.S. workers, and providing other technical assistance.

U.S. P.L. 115-218 is also the legislation that extended the NMI’s CW program for another 10 years, along with a plethora of additional requirements and renewed restrictions for the CW visa, or the main temporary foreign labor visa in the CNMI.



# In-state tuition for CNMI students in proposed law

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and 24 other Democrats introduced yesterday a 1,000-page bill to make it easier for Americans to get a college education.

The College Affordability Act includes Sablan's proposal to allow graduates of Northern Marianas College to pay in-state tuition, when they go on to a four-year, public university for further education.

"We lifted the federal Pell grant 10 years ago high enough that most NMC students have all the cost of their tuition and books covered," Sablan said. "But it has also been my goal to give our students help taking the next big step to go off-island for a baccalaureate degree that they cannot earn here in the Marianas. The College Affordability Act provides that help."

The proposed act incorporates Sablan's College Access Act, H.R. 2465, which allows the Commonwealth's governor to award grants of up to \$15,000 per year to NMC graduates to pay the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition at four-year,

public colleges or universities anywhere in America.

Interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico said that NMC supports Sablan's bill. "Eligibility for future tuition assistance would...enhance the value of an NMC degree and encourage more Marianas high school graduates to stay at home for the first two years of college," Eliptico said. "[We] strongly support the College Access Act as an investment in our future workforce by giving Marianas students another way to afford their education and enter rewarding careers."

In addition to the in-state tuition grant, Marianas students will also continue to be eligible for Pell grants, which the Affordability Act increases by \$500 and then permanently indexes to inflation. Unused Pell grant funds could be carried over for graduate studies.

## Special provisions for Chamorro and Refaluwasch

The College Affordability Act incorporates four more of Sablan's higher education initiatives. The bill makes NMC and

the CNMI Public School System eligible for new federal funding to support Chamorro and Refaluwasch language education.

Grants could be used for curriculum development and for instruction for students from early childhood through high school. Sablan introduced this proposal as H.R. 4188, the Native American Language Vitalization Act, earlier this year.

He also included his Indigenous STEM Professional Development Act, H.R. 4222. That bill expands an existing program that helps Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian students prepare for careers in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. Chamorro and Refaluwasch would also now qualify for this assistance. Funds can be used to increase retention and graduation rates for these Pacific Islanders, when studying STEM fields, and to set up internships to help with the transition to the workforce.

Sablan also successfully negotiated to include funding for workforce development in the College Affordability Act. The bill doubles a current grant for career and technical education that goes to the Marianas,

Guam, American Samoa, and Palau. The Marianas would receive \$2.1 million over six years for training in high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors. The funds could also be used for apprenticeships and improved career counseling.

## More Sablan bills rolled into higher education proposal

Sablan's Elevation of the Education Profession Act, H.R. 4424, was also made part of the College Affordability Act. The bill sets up an advisory committee to dig into various state government policies on teacher education and certification. The committee will then recommend to Congress better ways to prepare teachers and other school leaders and to support their work once they are employed in the nation's schools.

Sablan, who chairs the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, held a hearing in July on the question of why teachers leave the profession and how teacher turnover negatively affects students. As a result of the hear-

ing, he wrote the Elevation of the Education Profession Act.

And the College Affordability Act includes the Simple FAFSA Act, which Sablan introduced last month. Simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, will make it easier for students to apply for tuition assistance by eliminating unnecessary informational questions on the existing form. As many as 40% of students and their families give up before completing the FAFSA, leaving billions of federal school aid unused each year.

"Legislative ideas, like in-state tuition for Marianas students, simplifying FAFSA, putting more money into indigenous students and languages, are all proposals I have worked on for years," Sablan said. "But getting them added to the larger legislation put forward by the Democratic majority to reauthorize higher education programs nationwide makes it much more likely that my ideas will be enacted into law."

The House is expected to act on the College Affordability Act before the end of the year. **(PR)**



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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## NOTICE OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS: AIRPORT AND FINANCE

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that the Board Committees on Airport Facilities and Financial Affairs will be holding regular meetings on Monday, October 21, 2019, beginning 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located in the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Saipan.

## AGENDA

### AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. **Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (August 8, 2019 – Joint Airport Facilities Meeting and Financial Affairs Meeting and August 15, 2019)**
- II. **Public Comments**
- III. **Old Business:**
  1. Solar Updates
  2. CUC Water well near Tandem Skydive
  3. General Aviation Updates
- IV. **New Business:**
  1. Airport Operators Committee Report
  2. Saipan Commuter Parking
  3. Sand Filtration and Water Catchment
  4. Tinian International Airport Car Rental Concession (Joy)
    - a. Scope of Concession
    - b. Procurement Method
    - c. Evaluation Plan
  5. Ports Police Office Project
  6. Update on Tandem Skydive Lease (Former Freedom Air Hangar)
  7. New Terminal
  8. Electronic signboard
  9. Part 139 Inspection Reports
  10. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report
- V. **Executive Session (if needed)**
- VI. **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- VII. **Adjournment**

### FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. **Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (August 16, 2019)**
- II. **Public Comments**
- III. **Old Business: NONE.**
- IV. **New Business:**
  1. Business Gross Revenue Tax (BGRT)
  2. Airline Users Agreement
  3. Star Marianas Air
  4. Supplemental Budget Request: Insurance Premium
  5. Updated Committee Report
- V. **Executive Session (if needed)**
- VI. **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- VII. **Adjournment**

Persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony on the agenda items. A time limit may be imposed for oral testimony.

Barrie C. Toves Roman T. Tudela  
Airport Facilities Committee Chair Financial Affairs Committee Chair

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Thursday traffic arraignments set for 9am

This is to inform the public that the Superior Court will be hearing all traffic arraignments set for Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019, at 9am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Building in Susupe.

For additional information or assistance, contact the Office of the Clerk of Court at the CNMI Superior Court at (670) 235-4258 or 234-4253 or email Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court, at [patrick.diaz@justice.gov.mp](mailto:patrick.diaz@justice.gov.mp). **(PR)**

### Zoning office closed on Oct. 24

This is to inform the public that the Saipan Zoning Office will be closed on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019, from 7:30am to 4:30pm to conduct a professional development and training workshop for its staff. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, Oct. 28, 2019, at 7:30am. **(PR)**

### JKPL and Bookmobile resumes operations

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Bookmobile Outreach Services will resume normal operations today, Oct. 16, 2019. For the latest news and events, visit the JKPL website at [www.cnmilib.org](http://www.cnmilib.org) and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Pinterest @joetenkiyu, Snapchat @joetenkiyu. The public library's normal hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday to Friday,

10am–6pm, and Saturday, 9am–4pm, and closed austerity Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. **(PR)**

### Saipan to host terrestrial conservation conference

The 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop will be held on Nov. 18-20, at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. Registration is free and open to the public, and will include presentations on terrestrial conservation, field trips and activities such as pre-conference proa rides and Mariana swiftlet field trip, and a lizard identification trip at American Memorial Park. To register, visit [marianasterrestrialconservation.org](http://marianasterrestrialconservation.org). It also includes a birding trip, tree planting for Yutu recovery, Jeffrey's Beach tour, and native limestone forest hike. For more information about the conference, or for donations (financial or in-kind) to help with organizational costs as well as to raise funds to enable students to travel to the conference to present their research, email Jill Liske-Clark at [liskeclark.cnmidfw@gmail.com](mailto:liskeclark.cnmidfw@gmail.com). **(PR)**

### SHRM meeting on Oct. 23

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter is inviting its members, associated HR and management staff, and interested members of the public to attend its next general membership meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 23, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Charley's Cabaret

beginning at 11am.

The meeting will feature PSS Cooperative Education program coordinator Brandon Nicholas and Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence executive director Maisie Tenorio. This meeting is open to the public.

The presentation includes a lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Penny

Jones by email at [penelope.jones@hyatt.com](mailto:penelope.jones@hyatt.com) or Denise Montenegro at [denise.montenegro@hyatt.com](mailto:denise.montenegro@hyatt.com) or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit their website at <http://nmichapter.shrm.org>. **(PR)**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)**  
**ITB20-CHCC-HIV-STD-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM**

**"PROCUREMENT OF ONE (1) SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE (SUV) FOR PUBLIC HEALTH HIV/STD"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE ([WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP](http://WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP)). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA  
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that **Mario M. Estrada, Roland R. Casilla, Manuel Aratea Jr. and Marlon U. Amador** are no longer connected with TM Refrigeration & Aircondition Services as of September 30, 2019.

Any transaction made or entered by them after the above-mentioned date will no longer be honored by the company.

For any question or concerns, please call our office at (670) 234-8883.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## Providing for farmers so they can continue to provide for us

By **CRAIG BEYROUTY**  
The Baltimore Sun*Craig Beyrouty (beyrouty@umd.edu) is dean and director of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland.*

**W**e owe much to our farm families, particularly for dedicating their lives to ensuring we have access to safe, secure, affordable and nutritious food, while at the same time protecting the environment and our precious natural resources.

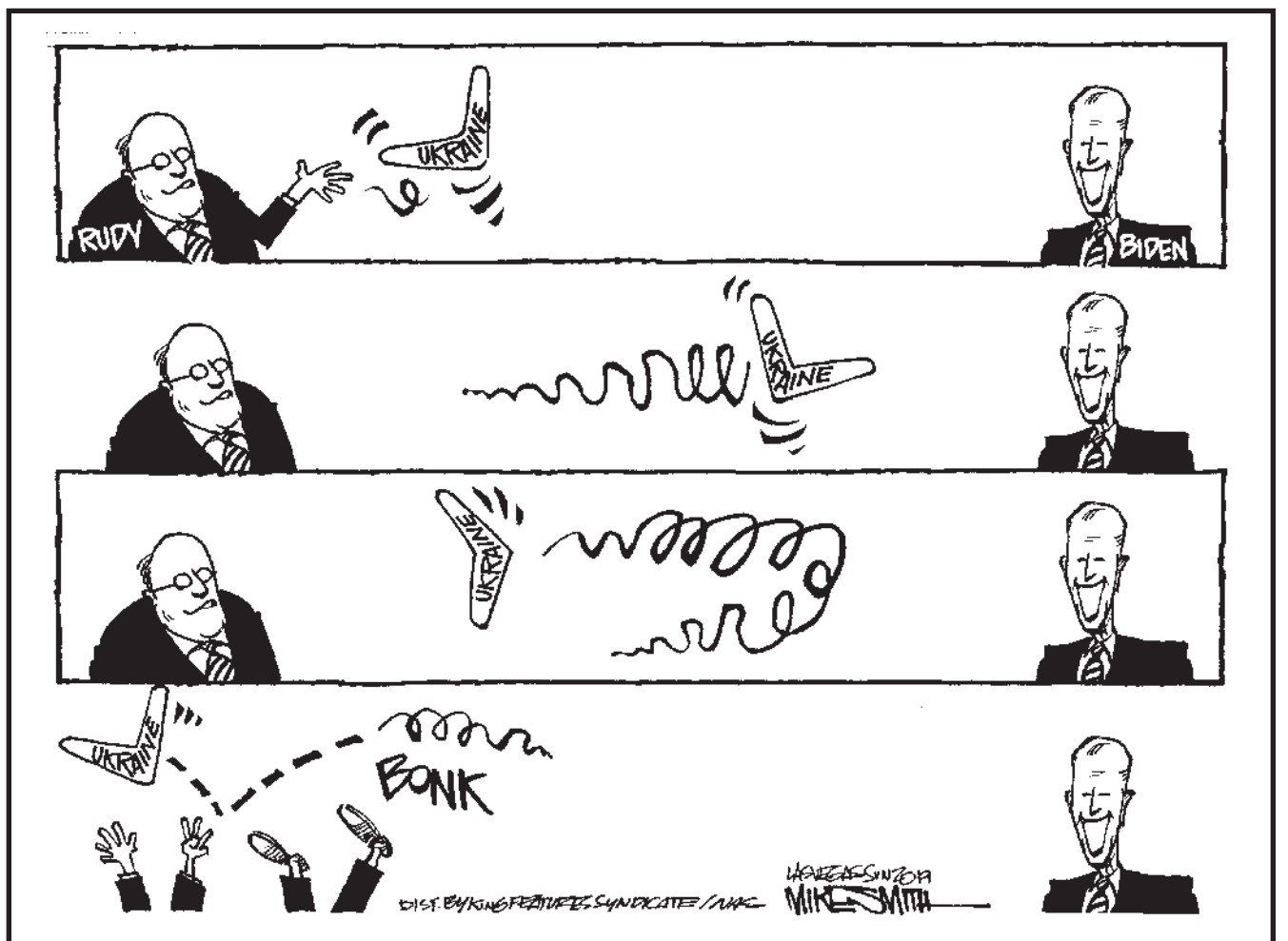
But producing the harvest we enjoy is extremely challenging. Roadblocks that farmers face in order to get their products from the field to the consumer are often out of their control, including extreme and unpredictable weather conditions, trade barriers that limit or eliminate foreign markets, cost of inputs measured against return on investment, lack of farm labor due to government policies, rapidly changing consumer demands and the need for an off-farm job for supplemental income and health insurance.

These external pressures, coupled with geographical and social isolation, and lack of health insurance coverage and diminished access to mental health care professionals give way to increased financial, legal, mental and physical stress. Chronic psychological stress, if not properly treated, can lead to increased anxiety, depression, substance abuse and suicide.

Additionally, farming is a profession with high risk for injuries, which can lead to prescription opioid use. In a recent study commissioned by the American Farm Bureau and the National Farmers Union, 77% of farmers said they could easily get opioids without a prescription, and 75% reported being directly affected by opioid misuse, addiction or overdose. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overdoses of opioids in rural areas have surpassed those in urban areas. The CDC also reports that suicide rates among farmers is twice that of the general population.

Our nation's farmers are indispensable, and it is incumbent upon each of us as consumers of food and other agricultural products to ensure that their health is maintained. We need to explore actions that could be taken by individuals, communities, organizations and even by policymakers to prevent or mitigate negative impacts on the farming population.

We must take a proactive approach to educate our farm families and rural citizens about signs of excessive distress that can incapacitate an individual and to guide them in accessing support and help when these signs appear. We owe so much of our future to our farmers and their families, and we must ensure they have access to resources to stay physically and mentally healthy. As educators and researchers, we are committed to ensuring the sustainability of a robust agricultural system in Maryland and throughout the U.S.



## President Trump wants you to get your flu shot

By **HENRY I. MILLER**  
Los Angeles Times*Henry I. Miller, a physician, molecular biologist and a senior fellow at the Pacific Research Institute, did research on the flu virus as a graduate student. He was the founding director of the Food and Drug Administration's office of biotechnology.*

**I**nfluenza—the flu—is more than a bad cold. Seasonal outbreaks mean not only misery but increased hospital admissions and deaths. The last flu season, from October 2018 until May 2019, caused up to 42.9 million illnesses, up to 647,000 hospitalizations and up to 61,200 deaths, according to preliminary numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

What can we expect this year? Australia's flu season, which runs ahead of ours (May to October), is often a good predictor. Its onset this year was early and there was a higher than average number of cases. The U.S. should prepare for a robust flu season, starting this month.

Anti-flu prescription medicines such as Tamiflu can help once you come down with the flu or as a prophylactic if family members have it. But vaccination is the primary line of defense. The CDC estimates that in six flu seasons starting in 2005-06, flu vaccination prevented almost 14 million cases.

In spite of that, many people resist getting a flu shot or the vaccine nasal spray. Most adults (60%) understand that vaccination offers good protection, but only 52% said they planned to follow through, according to a survey by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. That puts not only individuals but all of society at risk, because a high level of vaccination can create "herd immunity," a kind of biological barrier to the spread of an infectious disease.

The reasons people don't get vaccinated are varied. Some find it inconvenient, though flu vaccine can be administered almost anywhere there is a pharmacy. Some don't like shots, but the nasal spray takes care of that problem. Some who skip the vaccine worry that it will make them sick. They're wrong: A flu shot or the nasal spray will not and cannot give you the flu.

Although each season's vaccine is formulated to protect against three of four strains of flu virus, in some years it still isn't a good match for the strains that actually circulate. But it's worthwhile to get vaccinated regardless: If you contract the flu, the illness will be less severe and of shorter duration. That could be the difference between missing a week of work and a protracted stay in the hospital.

We can and should be doing more to make flu vaccines more effective. For example, it's well understood that older adults need more potent vaccines than younger people be-

cause their immune systems don't work as well. Vaccines with booster "adjuvants" or additional antigen, the substance that elicits immunity, are available for seniors. So far, however, these vaccines are only marginally better at protecting the elderly than the regular formulations. More research on dosage and adjuvants is needed.

There's also room for improvement in the way we manufacture flu vaccine. Much of each season's supply is grown in chicken eggs, rather than in "cultured cells"—cells derived from animals and under closely controlled conditions. Chicken-egg vaccine is 70-year-old technology; it's a slow process and it adds ingredients from the eggs that are known to reduce the vaccine's effectiveness against some flu strains.

Finally, we are still searching for a "universal" vaccine that will recognize all strains, including newly arising ones, and confer long-term immunity.

The Trump administration is, appropriately, making flu vaccines a high priority. On Sept. 19, the president issued an executive order establishing a task force to spur the modernization of flu vaccine production, support research on a universal vaccine and promote vaccination. Just this week, a \$130-million National Institutes of Health grant to the Center for Vaccines and Immunology at the University of Georgia garnered headlines: "Universal" flu vaccine may be one step closer to reality.

Flu is bad every year, but it also has the potential to spiral into a pandemic. The flu pandemic in 1918-19, the worst pandemic in history, claimed between 50 million and 100 million lives. It could happen again.

The threat of flu demands an all-out fight for an improved vaccine. Meanwhile, get your flu shot.





**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Improved online tool helps you choose Medicare plans

Just a reminder that Medicare's annual Open Enrollment Period starts Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 7, 2019.

This is the time of year when you can change how you get your Medicare coverage, switch health and drug plans, and add or drop Medicare prescription drug coverage. So it's important that you review your current coverage. Check your current enrollment at [Medicare.gov/find-a-plan/enrollment/check-enrollment.aspx](http://Medicare.gov/find-a-plan/enrollment/check-enrollment.aspx).

If you're happy with your current Medicare coverage, you don't need to do a thing during Open Enrollment. But people often find they can save money or find a plan that better meets their health needs by shopping around.

To help you shop for 2020 Medicare health and drug plans, we've just introduced an improved version of our popular Medicare Plan Finder, at [Medicare.gov/plan-compare/#/?year=2020](http://Medicare.gov/plan-compare/#/?year=2020).

The redesigned Medicare Plan Finder makes it easier than ever to compare coverage options, shop for plans, and feel confident in your choice. This tool now works on your smart phone, tablet, and desktop computer.

With Medicare Plan Finder you can:

- Compare up to three health or drug plans side-by-side;
- Get plan costs and benefits, including which Medicare Advantage plans offer extra benefits;
- Build a personal drug list and find a Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D) that best meets your needs. We'll start by suggesting prescriptions that you filled within the last 12 months. And when you search for a brand name drug, we'll show it along with any lower-cost generic alternatives.

If you're new to Medicare, you'll need to decide upfront how you get your Medicare coverage. Medicare Plan Finder can help with this, too. By selecting "Learn more about Medicare options before I see plans," you can compare the different ways you can Medicare coverage -- through Original Medicare (with or without extra coverage) or a Medicare Advantage plan.

For a more personalized experience, you can also create your own Medicare account at [MyMedicare.gov](http://MyMedicare.gov). Among other things, this account allows you to print a new Medicare card if you lose yours.

About 10,000 people enroll in Medicare each day, and we're improving our online tools to meet the needs of a growing number of tech-savvy beneficiaries. But you don't need a computer to get information on your Medicare benefits.

If you have any questions, you can always call Medicare's toll-free number, 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Customer service representatives are available 24/7.

There's also the "Medicare & You" handbook, mailed to every Medicare household in the country each fall. The handbook is available online at <https://www.medicare.gov/sites/default/files/2019-09/10050-medicare-and-you.pdf>.

And let me also recommend the excellent, free counseling you can get from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program, or SHIP.

SHIP is an independent, nonprofit organization that provides personalized counseling to people with Medicare. You can make an appointment to speak with a SHIP counselor in-person or over the phone.

SHIP counselors are well-trained volunteers who often are en-

By **GREG DILL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Greg Dill is Medicare's regional administrator for Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Territories. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).*



rolled in Medicare themselves, so they know the ropes. They can help you sort through different health and drug plans and help find one that's right for you. They're not trying to sell you any particular product.

To contact your local SHIP office, go to [Shiptacenter.org](http://Shiptacenter.org). (In California, the program is called the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, or HICAP.)

If you enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan this fall but you're not satisfied with it, you can switch plans or return to Original Medicare between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2020. If you return to Original Medicare, you can also buy a Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D) during this period.

Having trouble paying for your prescription drug plan (Part D)? You may be eligible for the Extra Help program, which helps cover your premiums, deductibles, and co-pays. Medicare beneficiaries typically save \$4,900 annually with Extra Help.

For more information, go to [SSA.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://SSA.gov/prescriptionhelp).

## The problem with impeachment

Impeachment is about to make everything worse.

If our politics seems overheated, our institutions beleaguered and our public debate degraded, just wait until we are in the midst of the impeachment debate.

Democrats have had an impeachment itch that they've been desperate to scratch ever since Donald Trump took office. For them, Ukraine is equal parts a genuine outrage and an excuse, the release valve for nearly three years of fear and loathing.

Rather than conducting himself as if he's aware that a hysterical opposition is eager to impeach him, Trump has embraced constant provocation. He has shown little interest in distinguishing between himself and the high office that he holds. Although we need to learn more, there's clearly an impropriety in his handling of Ukraine.

Enough to impeach and remove him? Presidential-level diplomacy always involves horse-trading, and it, surely, is not the first time a president has prodded an ally to do him a favor in his political interest. The risk of Trump's heavy-handed request—an aid package to Ukraine was being held up at the time—was that the Ukrainians would have felt compelled to manufacture damaging information on the Bidens. That didn't happen, and the aid, thanks to congressional pressure, was released in short order.

So far as we know, Ukraine lacks the hallmarks of other presidential scandals. There's been no cover-up. Trying to keep a transcript of a presidential call from leaking doesn't qualify. And once the controversy became public, the White House rapidly released key documents.

Nor is there any violation of law. Trump's ask of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wasn't extortion or a campaign-finance violation under any rational interpretation of our statutes. If it was, practically every president in our history would have had criminal exposure.

Unless there's a thermonuclear revelation, impeachment will be an exercise in futility, inevitably ending with Trump's Senate acquittal. GOP senators, by and large, are going to end up where their voters are. You can't expect Republicans to be told, falsely, for two and a half years straight that some conspiracy with the Russians was going to be uncovered imminently and then accept at face value a five-alarm interpretation of Ukraine.

Democrats can point to the predicate of the Clinton impeachment. Although if Trump had flagrantly and repeatedly perjured himself, he'd have been impeached long ago. The lesson from the 1990s is, Yes, you can impeach in the absence of any real hope of convicting in the Senate, but it's a lot of trouble to go

By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*



through for basically a censure vote.

If Trump were for some reason actually removed on anything like the current universe of possible evidence, it would create a crisis of legitimacy at the heart of our government. Think of what the U.K. is going through with Brexit, only worse. Ten of millions of Trump voters would feel cheated and disenfranchised, and the roiling populism that Trump has tapped into would get stronger, not dissipate.

Congress has shown before that it's possible to conduct a big, news-dominating investigation without impeachment proceedings; it's what it did during the Iran-Contra hearings in Ronald Reagan's second term. But impeachment is the verdict that Democrats have always wanted, and any offense will do.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

## WAO thanks donors, volunteers, and partners

The Women's Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor extends its gratitude and appreciation to the numerous donors, volunteers, partners and exhibitors for taking part in the CNMI's first Dress for Success event in early September.

Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro, the special adviser for women's affairs, stated that over a hundred women attended the event and expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to connect with agencies to assist with their career advancement.

"The mini-workshops and activities really could not have been possible without the various agencies, organizations and donors in the CNMI. We hope to continue to empower women and provide opportunities for them to thrive and we certainly hope to strengthen this current network of support since we are just getting started," Camacho-Ogumoro said.

Special thanks for the event's professional attire, accessories, and career development tools go to: Athlete's Foot, Blossom's Floral, Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center, Coca Cola Bever-

ages Co., Dial Rent-to-Own, Dolphin Wholesale, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Gold's Gym, Hard Rock Café, Himawari, IT&E, Jet Holdings Company Inc., JG Sablan Ice & Water, Joeten Superstore, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Lolipops/Girl Talk, Makeover Beauty Salon, MARPAC, Marianas Variety, National Office Supply, Pena House Boutique & Salon, Pualani Crown, Rosal / Zest Enterprises, Saipan Ice & Water Company, Saipan Shipping Company, Salyn's Beauty Shop, StaR Water, Triple J Wholesale, and Twins Supermarket.

Special thanks for coordination, exhibits, volunteerism, and continued partnership to Ayuda Network Inc., Bank of Guam, Be.You.Tiful Salon, Carolinian Affairs Office, CNMI Election Commission, CNMI Scholarship, CNMI Women's Association, Department of Corrections, Department of Commerce, Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Department of Community & Cultural Affairs/CCAC/CCDF/CCLP, Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Department of Labor,

DFS Saipan Limited, Empty Vessel, Genoveva's Hair Power Salon, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios & Special Assistant for Administration Offices, Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Karidat, Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Lady Wella Palacios, Micronesian Legal Services, Multi-Purpose Center, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, NMC-ABE Program, Northern Islands Mayor's Office, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Paradise Dental Center, Pena House Boutique & Salon, Saipan Chamber of Commerce/Saipan Young Professionals, Soroptimist International, Stellar Marianas, Trends Beauty Salon, the Youth Affairs Office and emcees Carol Hosono and Aggie Ketebengang.

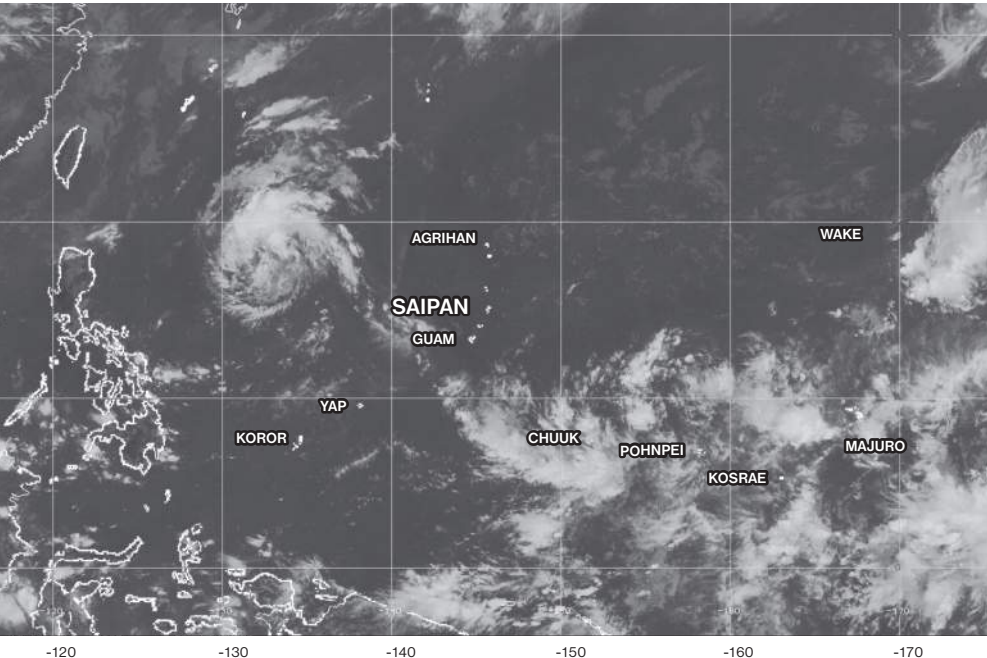
For more information on future events or partnerships with Women's Affairs Office, call (670) 488 - 2658 or email: [wao.cnmi@gmail.com](mailto:wao.cnmi@gmail.com). (PR)



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 5 to 10 mph.		Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 6:48 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Quiet weather is seen across the Marianas with only a few showers moving through the area. A developing circulation is found well west of the Marianas and is moving away. A couple of surface troughs are found to the east of the area, producing smaller clusters of showers and thunderstorms.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	85° / 77°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	88° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	87° / 82°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 57°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	66° / 45°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	86° / 75°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
London	Showers	57° / 50°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 59°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	70° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	59° / 52°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 64°	
Paris	Showers	63° / 54°	
Busan	Rain	70° / 61°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	73° / 54°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 45°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 51°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	72° / 52°	
Tokyo	Showers	66° / 61°	
Washington, DC	Windy	62° / 49°	

### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:27 AM	LOW TIDE	0.03	
10:02 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.74	
3:50 PM	LOW TIDE	0.93	
9:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.71	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:55 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:40 AM	8:25 PM
Friday	-	9:33 AM	9:12 PM
Saturday	-	10:28 AM	10:04 PM
Sunday	-	11:24 AM	10:59 PM
Monday	-	12:20 AM	11:57 PM

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2019				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily		
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily		
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily		
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily		
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily		
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily		
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily		
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily		
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily		
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily		
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily		
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily		
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily		
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily		
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily		



# CHCC employees help with rebuilding efforts

Commonwealth Health Care Corp. employees volunteered last Sept. 28 to replace the tin roof of a house in Chalan Kiya as part of the reconstruction efforts of the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts and Federal Emergency Management Agency's VALOR program.

Members of the CHCC's Crisis Counseling Program helped install the roof of the multi-family home, in coordination with project manager Lee Tenorio from the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Working with community outreach workers Anthony Passi Camacho and John Cole, as well as CCP project manager Brian Beck, several employees from the Saipan Mayor's Office, and Joe Gardinier, site foreman and owner of a local non-profit called Mini Home Makeovers, volunteered for the project that also included replacing the windows and a door for a home in Dandan.

Individuals from the United Methodist Committee on Relief and the Mennonite Disaster Service, under the guidance of the Voluntary Agencies Leading and Organizing Repair Program, were also on-island to assist the volunteers with minor interior and exterior repairs to homes that incurred damage from Super Typhoon Yutu.

This is part of an effort to provide aid to families who did not receive federal assis-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Health Care Corp. employees volunteer last Sept. 28 to repair a house in Chalan Kiya as part of the reconstruction efforts of the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts and Federal Emergency Management Agency's VALOR program.

tance after the storm.

As of Oct. 3, 2019, there are 95 listed homes on Saipan and 46 on Tinian that are eligible to receive assistance through the VALOR program. Presently, 49 homes on Saipan and five on Tinian have already been repaired.

In an ongoing effort to foster resiliency and ensure recovery, CCP YUTU will continue to provide as many resources as the program is capable, both through their normal counsel-

ing outreach and efforts like the VALOR program.

CCPYUTU services all survivors of Super Typhoon Yutu, regardless of immigration or health insurance status. They

visit community members in their homes and villages to provide support, teach coping strategies, and refer to appropriate services as needed. The CCP does not keep records of

any individuals seen, and all services are confidential.

For assistance or information pertaining to the program, survivors on Saipan may call (670) 286-0227 and residents of Tin-

ian may call (670) 286-0268.

For assistance through the VALOR program, survivors may submit by email their information to [cnmi-valor@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:cnmi-valor@fema.dhs.gov). (PR)

## Medicaid funding for Guam extended

**HAGÁTÑA, Guam**—Millions of dollars in Medicaid funding to Guam has been extended through Nov. 21, 2019, with the passage of a continuing resolution.

President Donald Trump signed into law H.R. 4378, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Health Extenders Act of 2019, which includes a provision that extends the current 100 percent Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage for the U.S. territories through Nov. 21, 2019. Without this provision, Guam would have been required to put up a 45% match to be able to draw down on available Affordable Care Act funds.

"This is a small victory for our island," said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "The bigger fight is for a lasting solution—one that treats Guam and the territories equal to the states when it comes to Medicaid funding. Our administration has persistently urged Congress to pass leg-

islation to permanently increase our FMAP and lift the Medicaid cap imposed on the territories."

In addition to testimony and numerous letters Leon Guerrero provided to Congress on the Medicaid "cliff," she also joined the chief executives of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa, signing off on a joint letter to urge for Medicaid parity with the states.

"From the start of our administration, we have meaningfully advanced Guam's call for fairer treatment under the Medicaid statute. With every step forward, we come closer and closer to sustainable coverage for those who need it at a savings to our taxpayers. We still have so much work to do, but our progress is real and Medicaid patients still have coverage because of it," said Leon Guerrero. (PR)

**Continuing resolution signed into law; Medicaid funds available through Nov. 21**

## Construction, mining industries get OSHA refresher



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A Department of Labor outreach for the construction and mining industries in the CNMI was held at the Napu Room of Pacific Islands Club last Sept. 20, 2019. The two-hour event was attended by representatives of the construction and mining industry.

The CNMI Department of Labor hosted its second two-hour construction and mining outreach last Sept. 20, reminding both the construction and mining industries in the Commonwealth of rules and regulations to ensure their workers' safety.

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente noted that several guest speakers from different government agencies, including Labor Enforcement and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, provided relevant information on health and safety in construc-

tion and mining sites on island as well as requirements and regulations on issuance of permits.

"The feedback received from the participants was constructive as they requested for more outreach from DOL to include other government agencies. I thank our partner agencies and to our acting director of Labor Enforcement and Compliance Mr. Jeffrey T. Camacho and guest speakers for coordinating the presentations, handouts, and vital information on their agency's

regulations and requirements," Benavente said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted that strengthening OSHA regulations in the Commonwealth, especially in the mining and construction industries, ensures the safety of the local workforce, the resiliency of infrastructure and the up-to-date compliance of contractors.

"The safety of all employees and keeping employers up-to-date on regulations is a primary concern and I thank CNMI DOL, our partner

agencies, and participants for taking an active role in assuring safe and healthy working conditions and enforcing these standards in the Marianas," Torres said.

The government agencies that participated in the outreach were the Division of Historic Preservation Office, Division of Coastal Resources Management, Division of Environmental Quality, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Lands, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (PR)



# Business

## ICE 2 CU: Island dream coming to fruition



Ice 2 C U's Dragon fruit &amp; Banana.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Ice 2 C U recently opened at the Paseo De Marianas in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Ice 2 C U's Classic Milk Tea.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In the 1994 movie *The Shawshank Redemption*, Andy Dufresne escaped from prison and found a second chance in life in Zihuatanejo, Mexico.

Not that Pei Li and company are fleeing from something, but they apparently found their Zihuatanejo on Saipan and that's why they recently opened Ice 2 C U at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Li, along with Jia Kang and Xiao Hong Li, discovered the island paradise of Saipan during a vacation last year and de-

cided to open a business here.

"I love traveling. Every year I travel with my family around the world, especially the islands. I have been to many [popular] islands—The Maldives, Mauritius, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Last year, my friends came to Saipan to celebrate their 10th anniversary of marriage. They invited me to come here. We have happy memories," he said.

What attracted him and his friends to the CNMI is its beautiful natural scenery, colorful sea, cool winds, and rosy sunsets.

Li also admired Saipan's melting pot of nationalities and culture and saw it as a great place to live and work at the same time.

"The culture here is so diverse and open. Local [residents], people from China, Korea, Europe, and the United States...live and work here peacefully, which makes it feel friendly. I [couldn't] forget Saipan when I went back to China, so I decided to give up [my] stable [job] in China and came here to start a new journey," he said.

Enter Ice 2 C U, which is a play on the popular English

greeting "Nice to see you." Li said they opened shop last Oct. 1 to capitalize on the Boba tea craze that is currently sweeping the world.

"As you know, in Europe, America, China, Japan, and Korea, drinking milk tea has become a fashion. There are many innovative tastes and style [that are] very popular in the market. The cool thing for young people nowadays is to [hang out] at the milk tea shop," he said. "My wife is also a milk tea lover. One of my best friends in China has a [good] experience in the milk tea business, so that is why we

want to bring high-quality and fashion milk tea drinks to the beautiful [island of] Saipan."

Aside from Boba tea, Ice 2 C U also offers all manner of cold drinks like milk tea, fruit tea, fresh milk and yogurt, and fruit smoothies.

So far, the bestsellers are Classic Milk Tea, Super Bubble, Dragon Fruit & Banana, and Mango Smoothie.

In time, Li hopes Ice 2 C U will not only be known for its delicious cold drinks, but also for its cozy and cool ambiance.

"It is a warm place where people can relax, chat, and laugh, happily share their lives and enhance their love. It is

also a place where beautiful photographs can be created. We provide many scenes and interesting props for everyone to discover their own beauty," he said.

"Maybe everyone has an island dream in their hearts. In the book *The Moon and Sixpence*, the central character Charles Strickland chose Tahiti. In *The Shawshank Redemption* Andy chose Zihuatanejo, and I chose Saipan," said Li.

Ice 2 C U is located at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan. It is open every day from 11am to 9:30pm and can accommodate 30 customers. For more information or reservations, call 588-8866.

## EU: Brexit deal in sight but UK must still do more

**BRUSSELS** (AP)—European Union officials hoped to sketch out a Brexit deal with Britain within hours, but negotiations stretched into early Wednesday in the latest effort at producing an agreement in more than three years of false starts and sudden reversals.

The bloc said it might be possible to strike a divorce deal by Thursday's EU leaders' summit, which comes just two weeks before the U.K.'s scheduled departure date of Oct. 31. One major proviso: The British government must make more compromises to seal an agreement in the coming hours.

Britain and the EU have been here before—within sight of a deal only to see it dashed—but a surge in the British pound Tuesday indicated hope that this time could be different. The currency rose

against the dollar to its highest level in months.

Even though many questions remain, diplomats made it clear that both sides were within touching distance of a deal for the first time since a U.K. withdrawal plan fell apart in the British House of Commons in March.

Still, talks that first lingered into Tuesday night turned into negotiating past midnight as no deal materialized between experts from both sides holed up at EU headquarters in a darkened Brussels.

Late Tuesday, Martin Schirdewan, a German member of the European Parliament's Brexit Steering Group, said an agreement was "now within our grasp" following a breakthrough in negotiations.

This week's EU leaders' meeting—the last scheduled

summit before the Brexit deadline—was long considered the last opportunity to approve a divorce agreement. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson insists his country will leave at the end of the month with or without an agreement, although U.K. lawmakers are determined to push for another delay rather than risk a chaotic no-deal Brexit.

Michel Barnier, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, said at a meeting of the bloc's ministers in Luxembourg on Tuesday that the main challenge now is to turn the new British proposals on the complex Irish border issue into something legally binding. EU member Ireland has a land border with the U.K.'s Northern Ireland, and both want to keep goods and people flowing freely across the currently invisible frontier.

## New Orleans collapse site worry: Tropical weather

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—A tropical disturbance over Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula was being eyed Tuesday by New Orleans authorities, who fear it could become a tropical depression or storm that would topple a partially collapsed building and two huge construction cranes onto neighboring buildings at the edge of the city's historic French Quarter.

It was the latest grim news delivered near the site where two people died Saturday morning as the upper floors of a hotel under construction came tumbling down in a cloud of blinding dust. One body remained in the rubble Tuesday evening and hopes that a missing worker will be found alive in the wreckage were dimming after four days of risky searches.

Fire Chief Tim McConnell said searchers using dogs and

high-tech equipment were able to get a partial view of the body known to be in the building but were unable to reach it or find the missing worker. Searchers found an unidentifiable fluid in the area that they collected. It will be tested to determine if it was from a human body and whether it could be used to identify either victim.

Meanwhile, a viable plan remained elusive for stabilizing the remains of the building and two badly damaged cranes towering over the site—one McConnell estimated at close to 270 feet (82 meters) high, the other around 300 feet (91 meters).

The city's initial plan to bring in other huge cranes to try to remove the existing ones was nixed by engineers, McConnell said. An idea to try to attach one of the cranes back to the building to try to stabi-

lize it also was rejected. "They were against moving it in any way, shape or form and didn't believe it was safe enough to even work around it," he said.

McConnell, accompanied by New Orleans Homeland Security Director Collin Arnold, Mayor LaToya Cantrell and other city officials, said authorities are satisfied that a blocks-long evacuation area around the damaged structures is sufficient, if obeyed, to keep anyone else from being harmed if the structures fall.

But, if no way is found to stabilize the building and cranes, neighboring buildings and infrastructure at the intersection of usually busy Canal and Rampart streets are in danger of disastrous damage.

Any wind and rain is a concern, officials said, saying wind could sway the cranes and rain could loosen dangling debris.



# Nation

## Prosecutors seek life for New Mexico man who killed family

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** (AP)—A New Mexico man convicted of killing his parents and three younger siblings when he was 15 apologized to the rest of his family Tuesday as he asked a judge for an opportunity at rehabilitation and redemption.

Nehemiah Griego, now 22, was the last person to address the court during an emotional daylong sentencing hearing. He expressed remorse for the 2013 killings, saying he was a different person at the time.

"I am sorry," he told his older sisters who were among those in the packed courtroom. "I wish I could take it back, but the reality is that we can't."

Griego pleaded guilty to the crimes in 2015 and a judge earlier this year determined he should be sentenced as an adult following an appeal of an early sentence handed down by a children's court judge.

Describing the killings as callous and calculated, prosecutors argued that Griego should spend the rest of his life in prison.

"These killings were not an accident. They were not done to defend himself, to defend his family or anyone else," prosecutor Mari Martinez told the judge. "They were methodically plotted and carried out in cold-blood."

Two of Griego's sisters made tearful pleas, saying they want their brother to remain locked up, under heavy guard, where he can get the mental health treatment he needs. They say he has shown no remorse and if let out could

hurt himself or others.

Griego sat in an orange jumpsuit, his head hung low as the sisters testified. He later broke down, wiping tears from his face during a break in the proceeding as well as when he addressed the court.

Defense attorney Stephen Taylor said there are several factors that the court should consider, not just the heinousness of the crime. He argued that Griego can be reformed and has made progress while in state custody.

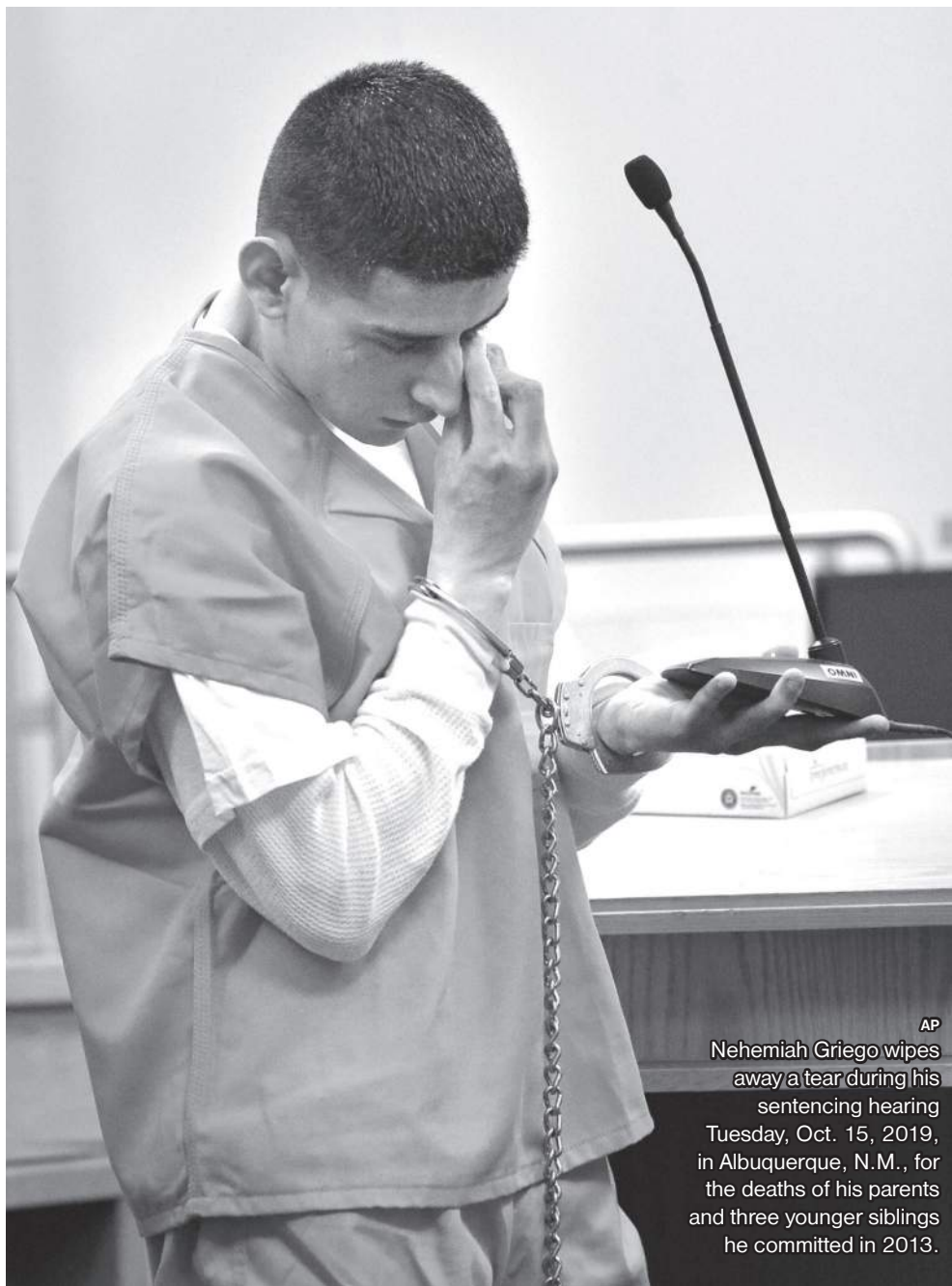
State District Judge Alisa Hart heard testimony from family members who have tried to help Griego in recent years, detectives who investigated the case, a child psychologist and other experts.

It's unclear how soon she could make a decision on what his punishment will be. Griego faces up to 120 years in prison.

The case has taken many twists and turns, prompting hearings and appeals over Griego's progress and mental health treatment while in custody and arguments over whether he should be sentenced as a juvenile or an adult.

That argument was settled earlier this year when Hart determined that Griego was not amenable to treatment as a juvenile.

Over the years, Griego's lawyers have presented testimony indicating their client endured abuse and neglect, claims that some relatives corroborated and others disputed during Tuesday's hearing. While in state custody, Griego also was diagnosed with



AP  
Nehemiah Griego wipes away a tear during his sentencing hearing Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019, in Albuquerque, N.M., for the deaths of his parents and three younger siblings he committed in 2013.

schizoaffective disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Prosecutors have focused on the chilling details of the killings, arguing that Griego

should serve a maximum of three consecutive life sentences plus another 30 years, ensuring he would never be released.

Sheriff's deputies have said the shooting rampage began in his parents' bedroom, where he shot his mother as she slept. He then shot his brother and

two sisters—ages 9, 5 and 2.

Griego's father, a reformed gang member and pastor at an Albuquerque megachurch, was shot and killed hours later when Griego ambushed him as he returned home, authorities said.

Prosecutors said Griego also had plans to commit a mass shooting at a public place and had loaded guns into the family van in preparation. He ended up meeting his 12-year-old girlfriend instead.

In 2016, a children's court judge found that Griego showed he was treatable, placing him on track for release on his 21st birthday after he received two more years of therapy. The New Mexico Court of Appeals overturned that decision in 2018.

After turning 21, Griego was transferred to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Albuquerque pending the outcome of his case.

Despite the concerns of some relatives, Griego's attorneys are hopeful he can be sentenced to probation and continued treatment.

Taylor suggested during the hearing that mental health services are lacking within the prison system. He read a letter to the judge from Nathaniel Jouett, another teen who was sentenced earlier this year to decades in prison for a deadly shooting at a New Mexico library.

In the letter, the 18-year-old Jouett writes that he was taken off his medication and is now "surrounded by violence, drugs and negativity."

## 'Absolutely no excuse' for woman's killing

**FORT WORTH, Texas** (AP)—The furor Tuesday over the killing of a black woman by a white Fort Worth officer became increasingly about a gun pointed at a bedroom window. But the police chief and activists said the focus was on the wrong gun.

Officer Aaron Dean was arrested on a murder charge Monday in the slaying of Atatiana Jefferson. Police released an arrest warrant Tuesday quoting the victim's 8-year-old nephew as saying Jefferson had pulled out a gun after hearing suspicious noises behind her house.

Black politicians and others criticized the police and the media for bringing up Jefferson's weapon, angrily accusing the department of trying to deflect blame onto an innocent victim.

"The Fort Worth Police Department is going about the

task of providing a defense for this officer," said Lee Merritt, an attorney for the Jefferson family.

Interim Police Chief Ed Kraus himself declared there was "absolutely no excuse" for the killing and said Jefferson behaved as any Texas homeowner would have on hearing a prowler. It wasn't clear from the warrant whether Dean even saw her weapon through the glass.

The killing early Saturday shocked people across the U.S. and led many black people to wonder once more whether they are no longer safe from police in their homes. Earlier this month, a white former Dallas officer was convicted of murder and sentenced to 10 years in prison for killing a black neighbor in his own apartment. She said she mistook his place for hers and thought he

was an intruder.

Dean, 34, resigned and was arrested Monday for firing a single bullet through a windowpane while investigating a neighbor's report about the front door being left open at Jefferson's home. Jefferson was staying up late, playing video games with her nephew.

Police bodycam video showed Dean making his way around the side of the house into the backyard in the darkness and opening fire a split second after shouting at the 28-year-old Jefferson to show her hands. He did not identify himself as a police officer.

In the arrest warrant, Jefferson's nephew said his aunt had taken a gun from her purse and pointed it at the window. Over the weekend, the Police Department also stirred anger by releasing images of the gun inside the home.

## British family decries treatment by US after border crossing

Seven members of an extended British family who made an unauthorized crossing into the United States from Canada are being held in federal custody at a Pennsylvania detention center nearly two weeks after their arrest, their lawyer said Tuesday, as U.S. border officials defended their handling of the case by disclosing that two of the adults had previously been denied entry to the country.

The family said they blundered into Washington state while trying to avoid an animal in the road on the Canadian side and have since been "treated like criminals" by their U.S. jailers, forced to bide their time in a series of cold and unsanitary immigration facilities as they await deportation to England. The detainees include an infant and 2-year-old twins.

Their attorney, Bridget Cambria, lodged a formal

complaint over the family's treatment with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's inspector general and civil rights office. She described the situation as a "very bizarre" case of federal overreach.

"What is bothersome for me as an attorney, and I guarantee for them, was the lack of common sense at almost every stage of their apprehension and detention," Cambria said.

U.S. officials assert the family of Eileen and David Connors crossed the border on purpose, noting their vehicle was observed "slowly and deliberately" driving through a ditch to cross into U.S. territory in Blaine, Washington, on Oct. 2. Four adults and three children were inside.

"During processing, record checks revealed two of the adults were previously denied travel authorization to come to the United States," U.S. Customs and Border Protection

said Tuesday in a statement to The Associated Press.

Officials did not say which adults had been denied entry into the U.S., or why.

The agency said that border agents tried returning the family to Canada, but Canada refused to have them back. After making two attempts to contact British consular officials, the border patrol said it turned the family over to U.S. immigration officials for removal proceedings.

Eileen Connors, 24, who is being held in Pennsylvania along with her husband David, their 3-month-old son, and other family members, said U.S. officials have mistreated them.

"We will be traumatized for the rest of our lives by what the United States government has done to us," she wrote in an affidavit released by immigrants' rights groups in Pennsylvania.



## Asia

## Kim vows to fight US sanctions, visits sacred N. Korean peak

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to surmount U.S.-led sanctions he says have inflicted “many hardships and trials” on his country, state media reported Wednesday, days after his country’s first nuclear negotiations with the U.S. in more than seven months fell apart.

State media also showed Kim riding a white horse to climb North Korea’s sacred Mount Paektu. Kim has often visited the mountain, the highest point on the Korean Peninsula, before making major decisions such as the 2013 execution of his powerful uncle and his 2018 entrance into diplomacy with Seoul and Washington.

South Korean media quickly speculated Kim may be considering a new strategy in his dealings with the U.S. because he’s previously demanded Washington come up with new

proposals to salvage the stalemated diplomacy by the end of December.

“He, sitting on the horseback atop Mt Paektu, recollected with deep emotion the road of arduous struggle he covered for the great cause of building the most powerful country with faith and will as firm as Mt Paektu,” the North’s official Korean Central News Agency said.

North Korean documents say Kim’s grandfather and national founder Kim Il Sung had an anti-Japan guerrilla base on the slopes of Paektu during Japan’s 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. The official biography of Kim Jong Un’s father, Kim Jong Il, says the second-generation leader was born on Paektu when a double rainbow filled the skies.

The white horse is also a propaganda symbol for the Kim family who has ruled North Korea for seven de-

cadres with a strong personality cult surrounding family members. State media have occasionally shown Kim, his sister and his father riding white horses. The symbolism goes back to Kim Il Sung, who according to the North’s official narrative, rode a white horse while fighting against Japanese colonial rulers.

KCNA said Kim also visited nearby construction sites in Samjiyon County and complained about U.S.-led U.N. sanctions imposed on his country because of its nuclear and nuclear programs.

“The situation of the country is difficult owing to the ceaseless sanctions and pressure by the hostile forces and there are many hardships and trials facing us,” Kim was quoted as saying. “But our people grew stronger through the trials and found their own way of development and learned how to always win

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House passed three bills Tuesday aimed at showing U.S. support for pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong.

The action follows months of protests over the Beijing government’s aggressive attempts to enforce control over the semi-autonomous territory.

**HONG KONG (AP)—China says it will take countermeasures after the U.S. House of Representatives passed three bills showing support for protesters in Hong Kong.**

China’s foreign ministry said Wednesday in a statement posted to its website that the issues facing Hong Kong right now are not “so-called human rights and democracy,” but rather violence.

China said the House “ignores the facts, inverts black and white” and applies double standards to crimes like arson and vandalizing shops in the name of human rights and democracy.

If the bill is passed, China says, it will not only damage Sino-U.S. relations, but also harm U.S. interests in Hong Kong.

The semi-autonomous Chinese city has been rocked by anti-government demonstrations for four months.

One of the bills condemns China’s intrusions into Hong Kong’s affairs and supports

the right of people to protest. Another requires annual reviews by the U.S. secretary of state of Hong Kong’s special economic and trade status, providing a check on Beijing’s influence over the territory. A third bill would ensure that U.S. weapons are not being used against protesters by police.

All three bills were approved on separate voice votes.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the bills important reminders of U.S. support for human rights in the face of significant commercial interests in China.

“If America does not speak out for human rights in China because of commercial interests, then we lose all moral authority to speak out on behalf of human rights any place in the world,” she said.

Pelosi said the bravery of young protesters in Hong Kong stands in contrast to “the cowardly government that refuses to respect the rule of law” and the “one country, two systems” policy that was supposed to ensure a smooth political transition after the former British colony was returned to China in 1997.

Under U.S. law, Hong Kong receives special treatment in matters of trade, customs, sanctions enforcement, law enforcement cooperation

and more. China has benefited from this special status and used it to evade U.S. export controls and sanctions, Pelosi and other lawmakers said.

“Solemn promises made by Beijing are rarely kept and far too many leaders of the free world are far too eager to blindly accept fiction over fact,” said Rep. Christopher

Smith, R-N.J., a lead sponsor of one of the Hong Kong bills.

Under President Xi Jinping, human rights abuses in China have significantly worsened, including the pervasive use of torture, religious persecution and human trafficking, Smith said.

China “excels in crushing bodies, shattering bones, tor-

turing dissidents and filling concentration camps—massive crimes against humanity for which there has been little or no accountability or sanction,” Smith said. “Today we’re simply urging the Chinese president and the Hong Kong Chief Executive, Carrie Lam, to faithfully honor the government’s promises.”

Smith’s bill would require a report by the Commerce Department on whether the Hong Kong government adequately enforces U.S. export controls and sanctions laws. It also allows qualified Hong Kong residents to work or study in the U.S. even if they have been arrested for participating in nonviolent protests.



## ASIAN BRIEFS

## Police detain Kashmir protesters, rebels kill truck driver

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Police in Indian-controlled Kashmir detained at least 12 women for holding an anti-India protest and two suspected militants shot and killed a truck driver near an apple orchard where he had picked up fruit boxes, police said Tuesday. The women, carrying placards reading “Respect Fundamental Rights” and “Why downgrade Jammu and Kashmir,” assembled Tuesday in a park in Srinagar, the main city in the region. Police whisked them away to a nearby police station as they tried to march through the main business area of Lal Chowk. They were likely to be released later Tuesday. The protesters included a sister and a daughter of Farooq Abdullah,

a former top elected official who was arrested after India’s government downgraded the region’s semi-autonomy and imposed a security and communications lockdown in August. The shooting of the truck driver on Monday came during the apple season. Apple sales are more than 20% of Kashmir’s economy, and police in the region say insurgent groups are pressuring traders and truck drivers to avoid the apple trade as part of anti-India protests.

## Newborn baby girl found buried alive in India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Police say a newborn baby girl has been found buried alive in an earthen pot in northern India and was hospitalized in critical condition. Police officer Abhinandan

Singh says the girl was found last Thursday by a trader who went to a cremation ground to bury his stillborn daughter. The trader, Hitesh Kumar, was alerted by the cries of the girl as the workers digging a grave for his daughter smashed the earthen pot. The baby girl was hospitalized in Bareilly, a town in Uttar Pradesh state. Singh said the police were trying to find her parents. Indian families, especially in poor communities, generally prefer boys, as they consider girls to be a financial burden for educating and marrying off, which requires money as a dowry.

## Pakistan’s premier leaves for Saudi Arabia amid Gulf tension

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan’s prime minister left for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday

amid his efforts to ease tensions between Riyadh and Iran after a recent attack on the kingdom’s oil industry, a government statement said. Imran Khan was expected to reach Riyadh later in the day. Saudi Arabia is a major supporter of Pakistan. The U.S. blames a Sept. 14 attack on Saudi oil fields on Iran, which Tehran denies. The attack halved the kingdom’s oil production. Khan’s visit comes after traveling on Sunday to Iran, where he met President Hassan Rouhani and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. His mediation efforts also come after Tehran said Friday that missiles struck an Iranian oil tanker traveling through the Red Sea near Saudi Arabia. Iran has published images of damage done to the tanker. Saudi Arabia denies being involved in the incident.



# World

## Russia seeks to cement its role as power broker in Syria

**CEYLANPINAR, Turkey** (AP)—Russia moved to fill the void left by the United States in northern Syria on Tuesday, deploying troops to keep apart advancing Syrian government forces and Turkish troops. At the same time, tensions grew within NATO as Turkey defied growing condemnation of its invasion from its Western allies.

Now in its seventh day, Turkey's offensive against Kurdish fighters has caused tens of thousands to flee their homes, has upended alliances and is re-drawing the map of northern Syria for yet another time in the 8-year-old war.

Russia moved quickly to further entrench its role as a power broker after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the pullout of American forces in northeastern Syria. The

American move effectively abandoned the Kurdish fighters who were allied with the U.S. and cleared the way for Turkey's invasion aimed at crushing them.

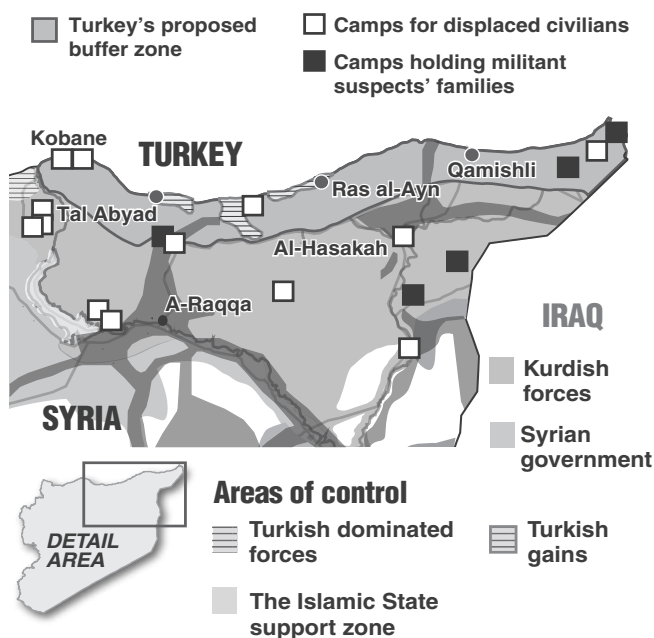
Desperate for a new protector, the Kurdish administration struck a deal with the Russia-backed government of Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose forces on Sunday began moving into Kurdish-administered areas to shield them against Turkey.

Syrian troops waved flags after they rolled into Manbij, a flashpoint town west of the Euphrates River that Turkey had been aiming to capture and wrest from Kurdish control. Video by Russian journalists with the troops showed what appeared to be an abandoned outpost where U.S. forces had been stationed.



AP  
Turkish tanks and troops stationed near Syrian town of Manbij, Syria, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.

### Turkey gains ground in Syria



A U.S. military spokesman, Col. Myles B. Caggins, confirmed U.S. troops had completed their pullout from Manbij. During the withdrawal, contacts were kept open with the Turks and Russians to ensure the several hundred American forces there got out safely, U.S. officials said.

U.S. troops have had outposts in Manbij since 2017, when they went in to avert a battle over the town between Turkish and Kurdish fighters.

Now Russia was playing that role. Outside Manbij, Russian troops patrolled front lines between Turkish and Syrian army positions to keep them apart, Russia's Defense

Ministry said.

"No one is interested" in fighting between Syrian government troops and Turkish forces, said Alexander Lavrentyev, Moscow's envoy for Syria. Russia "is not going to allow it," he told Russian state news agencies.

Kelly Craft, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters Washington is "deeply concerned" that Russian troops are patrolling between the two sides.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu spoke to U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper to discuss "issues of mutual interest in the context of

situation in Syria," the Russian Defense Ministry said in a brief statement, without elaborating.

Russia has been a staunch ally of Assad for decades and entered the Syrian conflict in 2015, providing air power that eventually turned the tide of the war in his favor. The Russian military has shipped weapons to Damascus, trained thousands of troops and put its advisers in key Syrian military units.

In the first week of the Turkish assault, at least 154 fighters from the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces have been killed, as well as 128 fighters

from Turkish-backed Syrian factions, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitor of the war. It said at least 69 civilians have been killed in Syria. Turkey says six of its soldiers have died, as well as at least 20 Turkish civilians killed by Kurdish mortar fire across the border.

Despite the Syrian and Russian deployments, Turkey insisted it would capture Manbij. Asked on Sky News if Turkey's military was willing to fight Assad's army, Vice President Fuat Oktay said, "We hope it's not going to happen, but again we are determined to get control over Manbij."

## Catalan protesters, police clash for second straight night

**BARCELONA, Spain** (AP)—Violent clashes erupted for a second night in Barcelona between police and protesters angry about the conviction of a dozen Catalan separatist leaders, as Spain launched an investigation Tuesday into an activist group organizing the demonstrations.

Thousands of people held vigils near the Spanish government offices in Catalonia's four provinces. But the gatherings turned into melees, with protesters hurling firecrackers and other objects at anti-riot officers and kicking temporary fences around the official buildings.

Full Coverage: Barcelona

In Barcelona, protesters sang the Catalan anthem and shouted "The streets will always be ours" and "Independence," while they called

Spanish police "occupying forces" and urged them to leave Catalonia. Demonstrators erected improvised barricades with trash bins, fences and piles of cardboard that they set on fire.

The greatly outnumbered riot police went in with shields and batons striking protesters in their path. They hit people on the legs mostly and fired foam-type anti-riot bullets that dispersed the crowds.

There were also clashes in Girona, Lleida and Tarragona as well as smaller towns across Catalonia.

In a statement late Tuesday, the office of the Spanish prime minister said protesters were causing "damage" and "vandalism," and accused "groups who use street violence to break coexistence in Catalonia" of coordinating

the rioting.

Most impromptu protesters were responding to an online campaign by Tsunami Democratic, a loose, leaderless grassroots group that uses encrypted messaging apps to call for peaceful disobedience.

Spain's caretaker interior minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, said authorities were investigating the group.

Vigils on Tuesday evening were initially called by ANC and Omnium, two grassroots pro-secession groups whose leaders Jordi Sánchez and Jordi Cuixart were sentenced Monday to nine years in prison for sedition.

In written answers to questions sent to Sánchez in prison, the activist-turned-politician defended the non-violent nature of the Catalan independence movement.

## After ending protests, Ecuador faces dire economic outlook

**QUITO, Ecuador** (AP)—President Lenin Moreno survived the toughest political crisis of his presidency by negotiating an end to indigenous anti-austerity protests. Now he faces an even tougher challenge.

Ten years of populist rule and a drop in oil prices have left Ecuador with a \$64 billion public debt, which is more than half the gross domestic product, and the government has a \$10 billion annual budget shortfall, about a third of the entire budget. Moreno persuaded indigenous protesters to return home Sunday night by restoring fuel subsidies that cost the government \$1.3 billion a year.

The streets were calm Tuesday afternoon, but Moreno and his administration were struggling to figure out how to stabilize the budget, reassure international lenders and

put Ecuador on a path of economic sustainability.

The indigenous protests have robbed Moreno of the ability to make deeply unpopular cuts in subsidies and social benefits that cost the country billions annually. Because Ecuador switched to using the dollar two decades ago, when it was on the brink of hyperinflation, it is hard to compete against countries with exports priced in cheaper currencies.

The protests of the last two weeks were themselves a grave blow to Ecuador's economy, costing it \$2.3 billion in lost productivity, spoiled goods and reduced oil production, according to the Industrial Chamber of Guayaquil, the country's most important economic center.

"Public finances are in a sort of stranglehold," said Jaime Carrera, an analyst at the Quito-based Center on Fiscal

Policy. "If there's no way to raise taxes or eliminate subsidies, the only other option is reducing the state budget, laying off public employees and investment, and that's not viable either."

Without a drastic improvement in 2020, Ecuador may have to start delaying payments to state workers and suppliers, Carrera said.

The Energy Ministry said Tuesday that the country's production of oil had begun recovering after protesters withdrew from production facilities in the Amazon. The ministry said it could take weeks, and \$30 million in repairs, to restore full production of 430,000 barrels a day. Output had dropped to 176,029 barrels a day during the protests, and production losses totaled some 1.2 million barrels worth approximately \$100 million, the ministry said.



# Focus

The impeachment inquiry is revealing vivid new details about the high-level unease over President Donald Trump's actions toward Ukraine, and those of his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, as the swift-moving probe by House Democrats showed no signs Tuesday of easing.

The testimony from the witnesses, mainly officials from the State Department and other foreign policy posts, is largely corroborating the account of the government whistleblower whose complaint first sparked the impeachment inquiry, according to lawmakers attending the closed-door interviews.

One witness, former White House aide Fiona Hill, testified that national security adviser John Bolton was so alarmed by Giuliani's back-channel activities in Ukraine that he described him as a "hand grenade who is going to blow everybody up."

Another, career State Department official George Kent, testified Tuesday he was told by administration officials to "lay low" on Ukraine as "three amigos" tied to the White House took over U.S. foreign policy toward the Eastern European ally.



Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent, second from right, arrives to appear before a joint House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and Committee on Oversight and Reform for a deposition on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.

## Vivid details emerge on Ukraine as impeachment quickens

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and LAURIE KELLMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, despite intensifying calls from Trump and Republicans to hold a formal vote to authorize the impeachment inquiry, showed no indication she would do so. She said Congress will continue its investigation as part of the Constitution's system of checks and balances of the executive.

"This is not a game for us. This is deadly serious. We're on a path that is taking us, a path to the truth," Pelosi told reporters after a closed-door session with House Democrats.

With Ukraine situated between the United States' Western allies and Russia, Pelosi noted the inquiry raises fresh questions about Trump's relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"All roads seem to lead to Putin with the president," she said.

Democratic leaders had been gauging support for a vote to authorize the impeachment inquiry after Trump and Republicans pushed them for a roll call. Holding a vote would test politically vulnerable Democrats in areas where the president is popular.

Trump calls the impeachment inquiry an "illegitimate process" and is blocking officials from cooperating.

But several Democratic freshmen who are military veterans or had careers in national security before joining Congress spoke up during the meeting Tuesday, warning Pelosi and

her leadership team a vote was unnecessary and would be playing into Republicans' hands, according to a person granted anonymity to discuss the private session.

The inquiry is moving quickly as a steady stream of officials appear behind closed doors this week, some providing new revelations about the events surrounding the July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. It is on that call that Trump urged Zelenskyy to investigate a firm tied to political rival Joe Biden's family and Ukraine's own involvement in the 2016 presidential election.

In a daylong session Tuesday, House investigators heard from Kent, who was concerned about the "fake news smear" against the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, whom Trump recalled in May, according to emails obtained by The Associated Press.

Kent told the lawmakers that he "found himself outside a parallel process" and had warned others about Giuliani as far back as March. He felt the shadow diplomacy was undermining decades of foreign policy and the rule of law in Ukraine and that was "wrong," said Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va.

Connolly said Kent described the results of a May 23 meeting at the White House, organized by Trump's acting chief of staff, Mick Mul-

vaney, where three administration officials—U.S. ambassador Gordon Sondland, special envoy Kurt Volker and Energy Secretary Rick Perry—declared themselves the people now responsible for Ukraine policy.

"They called themselves the three amigos," Connolly said Kent testified, and they said as much to Zelenskyy in Ukraine when they visited.

Kent also told them that Trump, through the Office of Management and Budget, which Mulvaney previously led, was holding up military aid to Ukraine while pressing Zelenskyy to investigate a company linked to Biden's son.

"He was clearly bothered by the role Mr. Giuliani was playing," Connolly said.

In 10 hours of testimony Monday, Hill, the former White House aide who was a top adviser on Russia, recalled to investigators that Bolton had told her he was not part of "whatever drug deal Sondland and Mulvaney are cooking up," an apparent reference to talks over Ukraine.

She testified that Bolton asked her to take the concerns to National Security Council lawyer John Eisenberg.

As White House lawyers now try to learn more about the handling of the Ukraine call, Eisenberg is coming under particular scrutiny, said one White House official. He was both the official who ordered that the memorandum of the call be moved

to a highly-classified system, and the one who involved the Justice Department in a complaint from the CIA general counsel. The latter caught the attention of the president, according to the official.

Giuliani said Tuesday he was "very disappointed" in Bolton's comment. Bolton, Giuliani said, "has been called much worse."

Giuliani also acknowledged he had received payments totaling \$500,000 related to the work for a company operated by Lev Parnas—who, along with associate Igor Fruman, played a key role in Giuliani's efforts to launch a Ukrainian corruption investigation against Biden and his son Hunter. The two men were arrested last week on campaign finance charges as they tried to board an international flight.

Trump's team won't comply with the Democratic inquiry. Giuliani and Vice President Mike Pence became the latest officials refusing to cooperate, saying through their lawyers they would not provide information requested by House Democrats as part of the impeachment inquiry.

The chairman leading the impeachment investigation, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said the stonewalling simply bolsters the charge that Trump is obstructing Congress.

"The case for Congress continues to build," Schiff said. He said Defense Secretary Mark Esper told

investigators Sunday that he would comply with a subpoena request, only to be "countermanded" by a higher authority, likely Trump.

Sondland, whose text messages with other diplomats are part of a cache released by Volker and made public earlier this month, is scheduled to appear for an interview Thursday.

The interviews Monday and Tuesday, like the others conducted by House impeachment investigators, took place behind closed doors. Republican lawmakers have aimed their ire at the process, saying witnesses should be interviewed out in the open.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Democrats were trying to "cancel out" Trump's election with the march toward impeachment.

Five more officials are scheduled this week, mostly from the State Department, though it is unclear if they will all appear.

Michael McKinley, a former top aide to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who resigned last week, is scheduled to testify Wednesday. McKinley, a career foreign service officer and Pompeo's de facto chief of staff, resigned Friday, ending a 37-year career.

Once Democrats have completed the probe and followed any other threads it produces, they will use their findings to help determine whether to vote on articles of impeachment.



# Environment



AP  
Arden Blumenthal, a NY/NJ Trails conference intern, puts a GPS in Dia's dog pack in Harriman State Park in Tuxedo, N.Y., Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019.

## Wags and weeds:

# Invasive plants meet match in detection dogs

By **MARY ESCH**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**TUXEDO, N.Y.** (AP)—In brushy terrain where a botanical interloper evades detection by the human eye, count on Dia to sniff it out.

Dia is a spunky Labrador retriever trained to track down a yellow-flowered shrub that's taking root in New York state parks. She's one of a new breed of detection dog assisting conservationists in the fight against invasive species.

With her handler, Joshua Beese, of the nonprofit New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Dia began last fall to hunt for Scotch broom in Bear Mountain and Harriman state parks about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of New York City.

The shrub, which displaces native plants with thickets impenetrable to wildlife, is a widespread noxious weed in the Pacific Northwest but is fairly new to New York. Land

managers hope to eradicate it before it becomes widespread.

"If we had to find all these plants ourselves, combing the grass for every tiny plant, it would take so much longer — and we'd still miss a lot," Beese said on a recent morning after Dia showed him hundreds of Scotch broom shoots hidden in a field of tall grass and sweetfern.

Beese later uprooted them. The plants had been overlooked by volunteers with the conference's Invasives Strike Force who had previously pulled 2,500 plants from the search area.

Detection dogs have long been used to sniff out drugs, explosives, cadavers and disaster survivors. In the mid '90s, handlers started training them for conservation tasks such as sniffing out scat from endangered species and detecting trafficked ivory. Now, the olfactory prowess of detection dogs is becoming an im-

portant tool in the fight against invasive plants and insects.

"Our field in the last 15 years has just exploded," said Pete Coppolillo, executive director of the nonprofit Working Dogs for Conservation in Bozeman, Montana. The organization partners with government agencies, researchers and nonprofits on five continents to provide trained dogs and handlers for conservation projects. One of its handlers mentored Beese on training Dia.

Working Dogs for Conservation has trained dogs to find spotted knapweed in Montana, Chinese bush clover in Iowa, yellow star thistle in Colorado, rosy wolf snails in Hawaii and brown tree snakes in Guam.

It's doing a feasibility study in Minnesota on using detection dogs to identify trees invaded by emerald ash borers. In five Western states, dogs have been employed to detect invasive zebra and quagga mussels on boats.

"We've trained over 200 dog and handler teams to help in global wildlife trafficking, and now we're doing a lot of invasive species work," Coppolillo said. "It's really exciting. As ecologists we've always talked of invasives as something we manage, but now we may actually be able to eradicate them in some places."

Dyer's woad, a knee-high weed from Russia that lights up roadsides with golden blossoms across the West, is a case study of how dogs can eradicate invasives that elude human crews.

Weed-pulling teams had tried for years to get rid of the weed at Mount Sentinel in Missoula, Montana, without making much headway. A border collie and a golden retriever from Working Dogs for Conservation were brought in to focus the teams' efforts. Within a few years the plants were almost gone.

The key is that the dogs can

sniff out plants hidden among other species, and they don't need flowers to identify them like people do.

"That's a game-changer," Coppolillo said. "Each plant can set up to 15,000 seeds a year, and seeds can live seven years in the soil. Dogs find plants before they flower and reproduce."

Working Dogs for Conservation trains shelter dogs for detection work, screening 1,000 dogs for every one they put to work. To make the cut, the dogs have to be not only good sniffers and high-energy, but also seriously obsessed with toys so they'll stay motivated to work for a reward: the chance to chomp a ball.

In New York, Beese got Dia from a Wisconsin breeder specializing in field competition dogs.

He taught her to hunt Scotch broom last fall and trained her on an invasive nonnative grass called slender false

brome this summer.

He plans to train his Belgian malinois, a certified search-and-rescue dog, to sniff out spotted lanternfly, a destructive forest and agricultural pest discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014.

In the field, Dia takes off sniffing the air when Beese says "Go find!"

She follows a targeted scent to its source and shows Beese each plant by touching it with her nose before sitting for a reward — a game of tug and fetch with her ball on a rope.

Beyond field work, Dia is bringing awareness to the trail conference's 8-year-old Invasives Strike Force program.

"The great thing about dogs is that they're charismatic and people love them," said Arden Blumenthal, a conservation intern working with Beese. "It's a great way to draw attention to the invasives issue. Let's face it, plants aren't all that sexy."



# Life & Style

Everyone is on their best behavior when Julie Andrews is around.

It's early June in Los Angeles and Andrews is coming to film segments for a night of guest programming on Turner Classic Movies and speak about her new book, "Home Work: A Memoir of My Hollywood Years," which hits shelves Tuesday. The air is thick with anticipation before her arrival. When her car does appear—as prompt as Mary Poppins—the crew, the producers and even the catering staff all abandon their lunches and stand to attention. When she steps out, some even start to softly clap, as though she is royalty or perhaps even something bigger than that.

But Andrews, seemingly knowing the effect she has on people, brings it back down to earth.

"Hi gang!" she says cheerily, with that voice that for many is as familiar as their own mother's, putting everyone (almost) at ease as she glides through the room.

Even TCM host Ben Mankiewicz, who is no stranger to speaking to screen legends, is a little awe struck.

"God, every time you talk I think, 'She sounds just like Julie Andrews!'" Mankiewicz says to his guest.

Andrews just laughs. "Shut up, shut up," she says.

For the next few hours, The Associated Press got a front-row seat as Andrews and Mankiewicz turned the little soundstage into a cozy living room for movie lovers as they discussed three films from her career: 1967's "Thoroughly Modern Millie," 1982's "Victor/Victoria" and 1986's "That's Life!," all of which she touches on in her memoir.

Although they may not be as well-known as "Mary Poppins" or "The Sound of Music," each provides a revealing glimpse into her work at different stages of her career outside of those beloved nanny roles. In talking about George Roy Hill's adaptation of "Thoroughly Modern Millie," Andrews reflected on her friendship with co-star Mary Tyler Moore.

"She called me Millie and I called her Miss Dorothy for the rest of our lives," Andrews, who just turned 84 this month, said. "I miss her so much."

All of the films are special to Andrews in some way, but naturally

the ones she made with Blake Edwards, her husband of 41 years, are particularly so.

"We made seven pictures together," Andrews said. "The first one 'Darling Lili' was such a huge flop it's amazing we stayed together for 41 years!"

On "Victor/Victoria," she said Edwards advised her to watch her old friend James Garner for inspiration, telling her "not only is he a great actor, but he's a great reactor."

"Blake would love to be sitting right here," she said wistfully as Mankiewicz praised the film. "He probably is."

The third film they discuss, "That's Life!" may be the least known of the bunch but is one that is in some ways the most personal. The dramatic comedy starring Jack Lemmon as man dreading his impending 60th birthday party and Andrews as his wife was a low-budget, non-union family affair that was filmed in her and Edwards' own home using all of their friends and nothing but a 13-page outline to guide the process.

"(Blake) wrote his demons in this film," Andrews says. "It was really a gift to us all to say 'I'm sorry if I've offended' ... it's his apology to us but it's on film."

In "Home Work," Andrews writes frankly about her relationship with Edwards, a man she remains deeply and wholly in love with and in reverence of but who also had his struggles with prescription drugs.

"I wanted to honor him properly. I wanted it to be truthful, but didn't want to hurt anybody, especially my kids," Andrews told the AP later that day.

Deciding what to leave in and what to take out, she said "was hard and I'm very nervous about that."

The films and her conversation with Mankiewicz will air on TCM on Oct. 29 beginning at 8pm Eastern and serve as a companion to the memoir, co-written with her daughter Emma Walton Hamilton, which picks up where her first memoir "Home: A Memoir of My Early Years," left off: Her arrival in Los Angeles to film "Mary Poppins," with then-husband Tony Walton and baby Emma in tow.

Aided by the diaries she kept throughout her life, some excerpts of which are included in "Home Work," Andrews gives a thoughtful account of her personal and professional highs, lows and everything in between. She tells amusing anecdotes about Alfred Hitchcock teaching her about lenses on "Torn Curtain," her fear of driving on freeways during "Mary Poppins" and how Edwards stood up for her when people at a party were trying to pressure her into doing drugs.

And she does not shy away from personal stories either: About financial worries, the breakup of her first marriage, deciding to adopt two daughters from an orphanage in Vietnam and her complex relationship with her parents.

The book and the TCM evening concludes with "That's Life!," although of course her Hollywood years continued after 1986.

But, she said, "They only wanted x number of pages and I was cutting like crazy anyway."

Still, it leaves open the possibility of another installment.

"There is so much more if I do write about it, 'Victor/Victoria' on Broadway and 'Princess Diaries' and other things and getting into the book writing," Andrews said. "There might be (another). But not just yet, I only finished it 10 days ago!" (AP)

## Q&A WITH JULIE ANDREWS

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Julie Andrews hasn't appeared in front of the camera in a feature film for almost 10 years, but that doesn't mean the 84-year-old screen legend has slowed down. She's just moved on to other things, like voice work, book writing and even directing theater.

In June, Andrews sat down with The Associated Press after filming a few segments for her guest programming night on Turner Classic Movies (airing Oct. 29) to talk about her new memoir, "Home Work: A Memoir of My Hollywood Years," out today, her early onslaught of success and her life now. Although she sees herself as being in a "second career," Andrews still enjoys looking back.

**AP: You appear to have a very healthy relationship with criticism and separating what your hopes are for a project and how they might not have matched with the reception. How did you reach that kind of peace?**

**JULIE ANDREWS:** You can't win them all! But I hope in this case that they like the book. But you cannot please everyone. How could you? So many people are coming at it from their own point of view. It's life.

**You also seem to not believe the narrative that you were always looking to shed the squeaky clean "nanny" image of "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music."**

With no disrespect, you can imagine that a great deal of it is manufactured by the press and of course the body of work speaks for itself which is somewhat squeaky clean, but there are so many movies, like "Duet for One" which I didn't speak about. It's not well known. But it's all about learning yourself.

**How does it make you feel that those first roles also have had such an indelible impact on so many generations of children?**

I think it's lovely. Where I've been so lucky is the films that I've made in the beginning and toward the end also, they have such longevity in that there is always a new generation to watch them and that's where I think I got so lucky too. I wish I had made "On the Waterfront" or something, but I don't think I would be as remembered as for the family movies.

**Was it difficult to have such iconic roles right at the start?**

No, it was a gift. I didn't know they were going to be hugely successful and you just learn and hope and go with a certain kind of gut instinct.

**How is your life now? Are you still able to go to Gstaad?**

I live in the Hamptons out on Long Island. I do go (to Gstaad) and we've had it for 40 something years now. And also writing and directing these days and a little producing and developing some of the books. Emma and I have in all done about 30 books and some of them are actually sprouting. They're all sprouting in different directions. And I'd love to direct more and I'd love to see some of the books we did come to fruition. That's a whole new life for me. It's like a second career.

**You do some voice work now for films...**

Thank goodness, they're wonderful. I don't have to put makeup on.

**But is there any chance you might get back in front of the camera for the right role?**

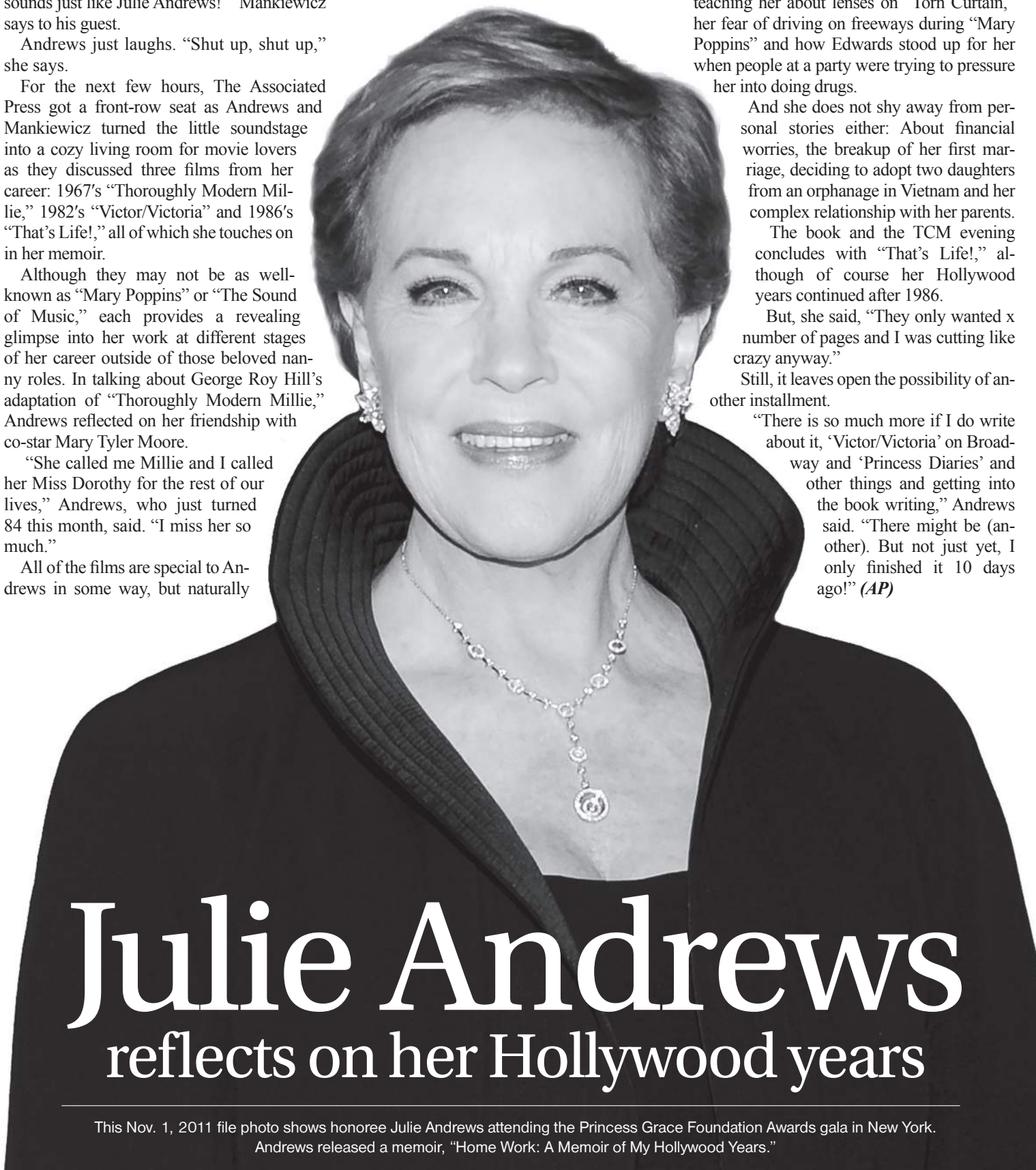
Well you never know but I doubt (it). I mean honest to God, at my age I'm so content and happy and I think I feel as though I'm moving toward something and I hope that I never stop working toward something, whatever it is, it'll be interesting.

**Is there anything you feel like people don't understand about you?**

That I really feel really blessed. I love life and I love my garden and I'm enjoying it now, very much so. But I don't think I will know how to ever stop completely until I stop, because it's been so much a part of my life for so long. I just always worked at something, as long as there's a lovely break in between.

**Are roses still your favorite?**

I just had a rose named after me! There is a beautiful Julie Andrews rose coming out. I do think it's beautiful.



# Julie Andrews

## reflects on her Hollywood years

This Nov. 1, 2011 file photo shows honoree Julie Andrews attending the Princess Grace Foundation Awards gala in New York. Andrews released a memoir, "Home Work: A Memoir of My Hollywood Years."



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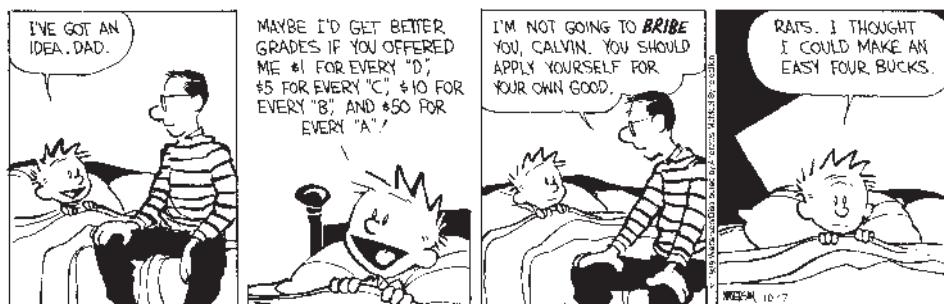
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# Pastimes

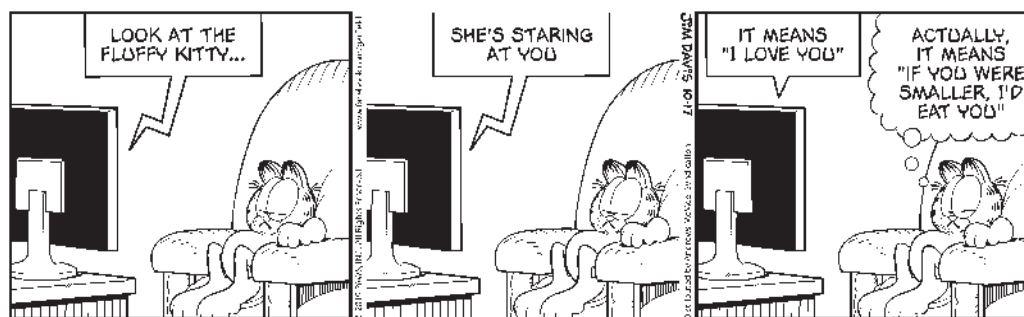
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



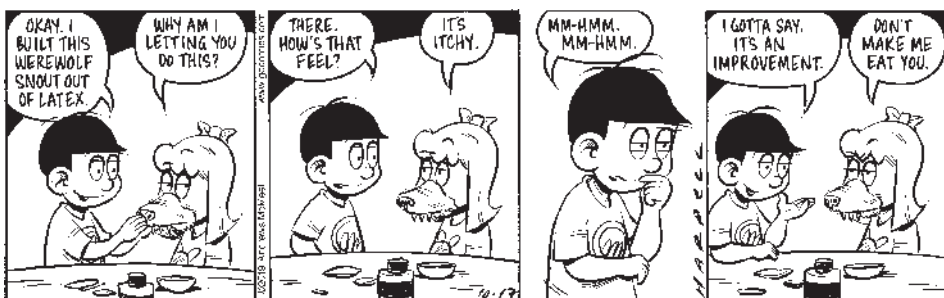
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Actress Arthur

4 Litigant

8 Vatican leader

12 URL ending

13 Vogue rival

14 "— a roll!"

15 Contemporaries

17 Must have

18 Sports-caster Berman

19 Unites firmly

21 Sew up

24 Frank McCourt memoir

25 Sandwich meat

26 911 responder

28 Challenges

32 Military group

34 Off-tattooed word

36 Little, to Verdi

37 Rock genre

39 Unruly group

**DOWN**

1 Large snake

2 Work unit

3 "18 or older" provision

4 Spooky gathering

5 Last (Abbr.)

6 Power co. supply

7 Bowling-lane button

8 Conifer fluid

9 Portent

10 Bard

11 Concludes

16 Gents

20 Central

21 Pal

22 Bowling spot

23 "Let me think ..."

27 Male turkey

29 Driver's anger

30 Beige

31 Bath bar

33 Alehouses

35 Cut the lawn

38 Vegas opener

40 School paper holder

43 They have their pride

45 Trio after M

46 Site of Apra Harbor

47 Start of Idaho's motto

48 Tide type

49 Leopard's feature

53 Brit. record label

54 Chap

55 Summer on the Seine

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

A	S	P	B	A	B	M	A	L	L
C	E	O	I	N	C	A	R	E	A
E	A	R	S	A	C	R	E	D	C
S	L	E	P	T	C	O	C		
I	R	I	S		S	A	M	B	A
S	A	M	C	O	O	K	E	P	A
N	B	A	S	N	I	T	S	R	U
A	B	I	G	S	E	A	C	A	V
G	F	N	O	A	S	I	A	G	
U	M	P		M	A	J	O	R	
S	C	U	R	C	R	F	A	M	O
B	A	L	D		O	G	L	E	B
A	R	M	S		S	O	A	R	S

**Yesterday's answer 10-17**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Felicity Jones, 36; Eminem, 47; Rob Marshall, 59; Alan Jackson, 61.

**Happy Birthday:** Keep moving forward. You have plenty to do if you want to be prepared to take advantage of the opportunities heading your way. Concentrate on physically making things happen that will encourage you to go after your dreams. Settling for less will not lead to happiness or prompt you to engage in friendships. Your numbers are 6, 10, 18, 23, 32, 36, 41.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Get things done. Stop thinking about all the challenges, and start heading in a direction that will lead to greater joy, expectations and personal gains. It's up to you to get the background, education and connections to make your dream come true. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Changing your mind a lot means you aren't ready to make a decision. Look to those who have preceded you and the mistakes they have made. Nothing happens overnight, but it can be achieved faster if you choose the proper channels. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Keep moving forward. It's the physical footprint you make that will bring you to a place that offers insight, knowledge and experience. Knowing your boundaries but pushing the limits will keep you balanced, focused and satisfied. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't let anger step in and take over. Nurturing will get you further and help you understand what others are experiencing. Compassion,

understanding and love will promote trust, respect and continuity in what you strive to achieve. Romance is featured. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Consider what others do and how you can fit what you have to offer into the mix. Working uniformly to make improvements will bring you closer to people who share your interests and concerns. Walk away from those taking a different path. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Share information to gain valuable insight into new possibilities. Hold off on making a decision or joining forces with someone presenting a plan that doesn't match up to your budget, values or timeline. A change of scenery is favored. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Start the ball rolling. Get your papers in order and your plans documented. If someone doesn't want to tag along, don't be afraid to go it alone. What you accomplish can lead to more cash, higher position and greater satisfaction. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** A personal change you make will encourage you to get involved in activities that excite you. Choose to be physically active and use your imagination, and you will attract relationships that motivate you. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** If you don't feel passionate about something you are doing, it's time to switch things up a bit. Look around you and gravitate toward the people who are just as excited as you about future dreams and possibilities. Take action. ★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** A change at home will encourage you to spend more time there. A unique proposition will entice you. Get the lowdown, and consider how best to move forward. An unusual opportunity will turn into a moneymaking adventure. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Pay attention to detail, and take care of personal matters yourself. A positive change you make to the way you live will encourage you to save more and do something constructive at home that brings in extra cash. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Volunteer to help a cause, and you will make a difference. Use your intelligence, and physically take charge of situations that need to be adjusted. A contract will help you feel secure and encourage confidence as you move forward. ★★

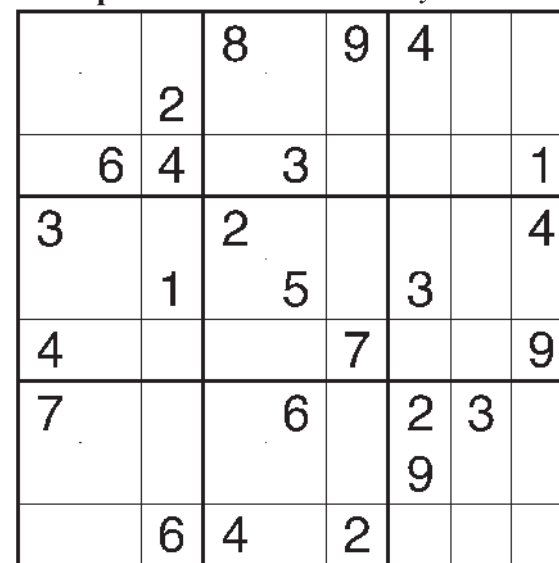
**Birthday Baby:** You are energetic, willful and informative. You are ambitious and engaging.

Visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

## SUDOKU

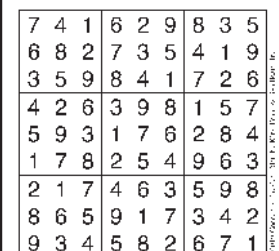
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

10/17

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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**MINGLING** Solution: 6 letters

C S T A N S W E R P E T I N U  
N O S S M O V I E S T O R Y H  
G O M E E E Y T I V I T C A U  
N L I M N R A S M O V E Y N M  
I A F T U I E E P M N E T E O  
R I S R C N S T O U I X R T R  
E C P O I N I U N S O P A S E  
H O S U H E U T B I E R P I N  
T S N O P E N F Y C C E G L N  
A E S G N I D D E W A S R H I  
G T S U G G E S T K S S G G D  
C C O N C E R T K M U U N A  
A S P I H S N O I T A L E R N  
F L Y L E V I L N L L L S E C  
E G A G N E E D D E B A T E E

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Activity, Agree, Answer, Associate, Blend, Business, Café, Casual, Community, Concert, Dance, Debate, Dinner, Discuss, Engage, Events, Express, Friend, Function, Gathering, Genuine, Groups, Guest, Host, Humor, Interest, Invite, Kind, Laugh, Listen, Lively, Move, Movie, Music, Open, Party, Relationships, Smile, Social, Speak, Story, Suggest, Unite, Wedding  
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# DC in World Series for 1st time since 1933



WASHINGTON (AP) —

As the Washington Nationals moved a party 86 years in the making from their ballpark's infield to a booze-filled clubhouse, manager Dave Martinez paused near the dugout and thrust the silver NL Championship Series trophy overhead, to the delight of loud, delirious fans still in the stands.

Who would have thought this was possible five months ago, when the team was flailing, trade talk was swirling around Washington and folks figured Martinez's job was in jeopardy?

From 19-31 during a mediocre May to the Fall Classic in an outstanding October—and the city's first World Series appearance since 1933.

Extending their stunning turnaround, the wild-card Nationals got RBIs from middle-of-the-order stars Anthony Rendon and Juan Soto in a seven-run first inning Tuesday night, and Patrick Corbin's 12-strikeout performance plus a trio of relievers helped hold on to beat the St. Louis Cardinals 7-4 in Game 4 to complete a sweep in the NLCS.

"Often, bumpy roads lead to beautiful places," said Martinez, who underwent a heart procedure in September, "and this is a beautiful place."

Right from the first inning Tuesday, most in a sellout crowd of 43,976 rose from their seats to applaud or yell or twirl their red towels, to chant "Let's go, Nats!" and "M-V-P!" and various players' names, enjoying every moment of that game-deciding outburst.

And then, a couple of hours and several innings later, as Tanner Rainey, Sean Doolittle and Daniel Hudson were protecting a shrinking lead, those same spectators stood and shouted and reveled some more.

"I just kept counting down: We're 12 outs from the World Series. We're nine outs from the World Series," shortstop Trea Turner said. "Six. Three."

Now the Nationals get plenty of time to rest and set up their so-far terrific rotation before beginning the last series of the season against the Houston Astros or New York Yankees in a week. Houston leads the best-of-seven AL Championship Series 2-1 after winning Game 3 at New York 4-1 Tuesday.

The Nationals became the fourth team to reach the World Series after being 12 games under .500.

"We think we can compete with any team, any time," NLCS MVP Howie Kendrick said. "People always get caught up in the things that are on paper, but the reality of it



Washington Nationals' Juan Soto makes a running catch on a ball hit by St. Louis Cardinals' Kolten Wong during the seventh inning of Game 4 of the National League Championship Series Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019, in Washington.

to end that inning.

Hudson finished things with a perfect ninth, getting Tommy Edman on a fly ball to center field to end it, and red fireworks went off around the stadium.

Corbin got this evening started with a 1-2-3 top of the first, striking out all three Cardinals with a high, 95 mph fastball, a real contrast to the off-speed stuff Stephen Strasburg used for his own dozen Ks a night earlier.

In the bottom half, Washington put up those seven runs, all charged to rookie Dakota Hudson, who lasted all of 15 pitches—doing to the Cardinals what they did in the previous round, when they scored 10 to open Game 5 of the NLDS against Atlanta.

All the heartache of play-offs past seemed to dissipate during an evening that only briefly was tense for the home team and its supporters:

is you have to go out and play. Once we get out on the field, anything can happen."

The last time the World Series came to the nation's capital, more than eight decades ago, the Washington Senators lost to the New York Giants in five games. Have to go even further back, to 1924, for the city's lone baseball championship, when the Senators defeated the Giants.

The Senators eventually left, and the town didn't have a major league team at all for more than three decades until the Montreal Expos—who were founded in 1969 and never made it to the World Series—moved to Washington in 2005.

The Nationals had never managed to advance in the postseason since arriving, going 0-4 in the NLDS over the last seven years, including three Game 5 losses at home.

First baseman Ryan Zimmerman, the Nationals' first draft pick in Washington, was there for all of that heartache.

"Sometimes," he said, "you got to wait for good things."

This month alone, the Nationals beat the Milwaukee Brewers in the NL wild-card game after trailing 3-1 heading to the eighth, and eliminated the league-best Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 5 of the NL Division Series after trailing 3-1 heading to the eighth again.

Then came this lopsided dismissal of the NL Central

champion Cardinals, who were outscored 20-6 in the series.

"Of course, we could've played better," said St. Louis first baseman Paul Goldschmidt, who was 1 for 16 with nine strikeouts in the NLCS, "but we didn't."

Corbin, a left-handed pitcher signed with \$140 million of the money that became available last offseason when Bryce Harper left town to join the Philadelphia Phillies, was not quite the equal of Washington's other starters in the series.

Still, he did become the first pitcher to strike out 10 batters in the first four innings of a postseason game and earned the win after allowing four runs in five innings.

Then Martinez turned to his NL-worst bullpen, such a problem for so much of this season.

After Rainey got three outs, and Doolittle got five, Hudson came in for his fourth save in four chances this postseason. It wasn't easy, though: After replacing Doolittle with two outs in the eighth, Hudson hit his first batter and walked his second, bringing pinch-hitter Matt Carpenter to the plate as the go-ahead run with the bases loaded.

Carpenter, a career .481 batter with the bases full, grounded out to second baseman Brian Dozier, a defensive replacement who briefly lost the ball before gathering it and throwing to first

## Astros take 2-1 lead in ALCS

NEW YORK—The Houston Astros rotation hogged the spotlight all season.

It was Justin Verlander this, Gerrit Cole that, Zack Greinke this, Wade Miley that.

Well, now that they have taken their act to Broadway, the garage band has taken over the show.

The performers' names may be anonymous to everyone outside the 713 area code, but the Astros' bullpen suddenly have become the stars of this American League Championship Series.

The Astros, 4-1 winners over the New York Yankees on Tuesday at Yankee Stadium, now have a commanding 2-1 lead in this best-of-seven series, thanks to their unknown cast of characters.

The series isn't over, but the Astros are in control, and even could have Mother Nature helping them out.

Game 4 is expected to be postponed Wednesday with heavy rain in the New York forecast, meaning that if the ALCS went seven games, there would be four consecutive games with no rest.

That would create huge problems for the Yankees, who heavily rely on their bullpen, with Yankees manager Aaron Boone having yet to deploy any of his relievers

in three consecutive games this season.

Now, he may have no choice, particularly with a starting rotation that again force him to go to the bullpen early, with Luis Severino lasting just 4 1/3 innings.

The Astros, after Cole's latest masterpiece, pitching seven scoreless innings, now will have former Cy Young winners Greinke and Verlander available to start Games 4 and 5, and if needed Cole for Game 7.

They'll eat up innings, and permit Astros manager A.J. Hinch to mix and match with his own bullpen, keeping them fresh.

"When the bullpen comes in game after game after game, you get a little bit more of a fatigue version of that reliever," Hinch said, "or you get a little bit more of the same sequence. The hitters can get a little bit better idea how they're going to be attacked."

Yep, three games in, and the Astros now have seen the Yankees' bullpen plenty, and appear more comfortable by the day.

Severino gave up two runs, and when the Yankees bullpen came in, they were helpless to stop the damage. The Astros blew it open in the seventh inning when Adam Ottavino self-destructed,

with the Astros scoring two runs on nothing more than a single, thanks to two walks, a wild pitch and a sacrifice fly.

Cole, 19-0 since May 22, pitched seven shutout innings, but walked a season-high five batters, turning the game over to the bullpen in the eighth inning.

Well, after pitching 4 1/3 shutout innings in their 3-2, 11-inning victory in Game 2, giving up just one hit while striking out five with two walks, came back for an encore, and once again closed the door.

Will Harris, who has yet to give up a run this postseason, after yielding a franchise-best 1.50 ERA in 68 regular-season appearances, got the final two outs of the eighth.

And closer Roberto Osuna, who pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings in Game 2, saved his eight consecutive game.

Ballgame.

And just like that, the script for this series has been turned upside down.

The Yankees' bullpen, filled with marquee stars like Aroldis Chapman, Zack Britton, Ottavino and company, now are taking a back seat to the Astros.

Yes, a bullpen that could walk the streets of New York wearing their uniforms and no one would recognize them.



# LeBron's comments on China tweet draw flak



**ELSEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)** — LeBron James has stepped into the spotlight of the now-strained relationship between the NBA and China with his comments about the league executive who started the ongoing fallout with what James derided as a “misinformed” tweet. Politicians, human rights groups and ordinary fans on social media have criticized the outspoken superstar, questioning the motivation of James’ comments.

James spoke out Monday, his seven-minute session with reporters putting him squarely in the center of the ongoing international schism. Houston general manager Daryl Morey was “not really educated on the situation,” James asserted, when he sent out that since-deleted Oct. 4 tweet showing support for Hong Kong’s pro-democracy protests.

On Tuesday, James acknowledged the criticism—and said he expected that it would be coming.

“Obviously, it’s a tough situation that we’re all in right now, ... I think when an issue comes up, if you feel passionate about it or you feel like it’s something you want to talk about, then so be it,” James said. “I also don’t think that every issue should be everybody’s problem as well.”

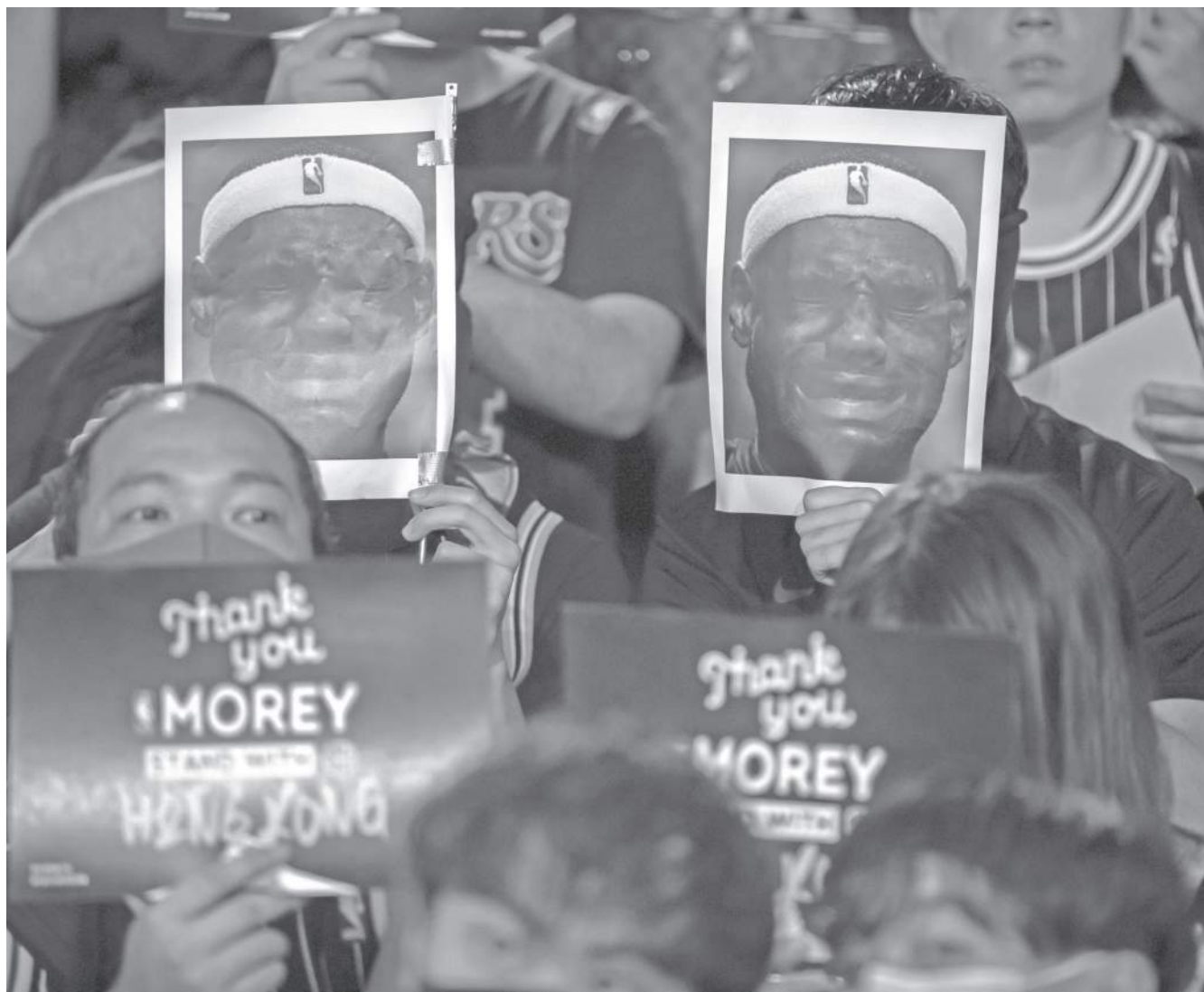
Monday’s comments unleashed an immediate backlash against James, who has often spoken out on social and political matters, with some expressing dismay that this time he seemed to be more concerned about protecting his own brand and financial interests in China, where he enjoys enormous popularity.

“I’ve always been welcomed with open arms,” James said. “I’ve been to China probably 15 to 20 times ... to have this beautiful game that we all love to be able to bring people together in the most positive way.”

That is not the case right now. James was in China for the two games last week between his Los Angeles Lakers and the Brooklyn Nets that were played under most unusual circumstances—with no pregame or postgame media sessions, first by decree of the Chinese and then from the NBA, and with several major league Chinese partners pulling their support of the exhibitions.

With the Lakers and Nets now home, the rift and debate about what the league should have done continues, reinvigorated by James speaking out.

“The situation ... has flared



Demonstrators hold up photos of LeBron James grimacing during a rally at the Southern Playground in Hong Kong, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019. Protesters in Hong Kong have thrown basketballs at a photo of LeBron James and chanted their anger about comments the Los Angeles Lakers star made about free speech during a rally in support of NBA commissioner Adam Silver and Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey.

21% from the previous year, while overall, sales in China made up 16% of Nike’s total revenue.

James has often spoken out on issues he feels passionate about. When he played in Miami, he and other Heat players wore hoodies in reaction to the death of Trayvon Martin—an unarmed black teen who was wearing a hoodie when he was shot dead by a neighborhood watch volunteer in Florida in 2012.

He also has supported Colin Kaepernick, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback who began kneeling during the national anthem in an effort to raise awareness of racial oppression and police brutality. He’s a frequent critic of President Donald Trump, campaigned for 2016 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and most recently sat with California Gov. Gavin Newsom as the Democrat signed into law a bill that will allow college athletes in that state to hire agents and make money from endorsement deals.

up again,” said Matt Powell, a sports business analyst at research firm The NPD Group. “LeBron is getting a lot of criticism on social media.”

It wasn’t limited to the Twitter world, either.

Protesters in Hong Kong on Tuesday trampled on James’ jerseys, burning one, and threw basketballs at a photo of the four-time NBA MVP—a global sports icon whose image has taken a clear hit.

Among James’ comments Monday night, his first publicly shared thoughts on the matter: “So many people could have been harmed, not only financially but emotionally, physically and spiritually” by Morey’s tweet.

That fanned the fallout fire, including from U.S. lawmakers who said they believed the NBA’s primary goal had been to protect the league’s massive financial interest when it comes to its relationship with China instead of more vigorously defending Morey’s right to free speech.

Sen. Rick Scott of Florida, a frequent critic of James, tweeted both Monday night and again Tuesday morning about the NBA star’s comments, accusing him of “kowtowing to Communist China.” The office of Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska also tweeted at James, saying “you’re parroting communist propaganda.”

Morey has not apologized, and has not said anything publicly since two tweets on Oct. 6 attempting to clarify his

thinking.

At a media availability on Tuesday, several Rockets players and coach Mike D’Antoni declined to say much of anything about James’ comments.

“I haven’t seen it,” Rockets star guard James Harden told reporters.

Rockets center Tyson Chandler, who was James’ teammate on the Lakers last sea-

son, also passed on expressing an opinion.

“I think again everybody’s thoughts are their own,” Chandler told reporters. “I think LeBron’s (are) his, Daryl’s (are) his and I like to stay out of people’s thoughts.”

Teammate forward Thabo Sefolosha, who was born in Switzerland and is in his first year with the Rockets,

did touch briefly on the free-speech issue. “Everybody is entitled to their opinion, entitled to what they want to say. That’s the beauty about this country.”

China is considered the fastest-growing market for Nike, with whom James has a lifetime endorsement deal. In the most recent fiscal year, its revenue from China jumped

## Canada beats US, ends 34-year, 17-game skid

**TORONTO (AP)** — The U.S. keeps coming up with underwhelming performances in its first year under Gregg Berhalter, whose tenure as American coach is starting to draw criticism.

Canada beat the United States for the first time in 34 years, getting second-half goals from Alphonso Davies and Lucas Cavallini in a 2-0 victory over the listless Americans on Tuesday night in the CONCACAF Nations League.

A little over two years after the Americans failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup by losing at Trinidad and Tobago, they saw their 17-match unbeaten streak against their northern neighbor come to an end. They had not even allowed a goal to the Canadians in four previous matches dating to 2007.

“The first thing that stands out to me is desire, the desire of Canada,” Berhalter said. “Give them credit, but having said that, the minimum we expect is to match that.

We need to compete on every single play in games like that, and that’s important. I don’t think it was lack of effort, I don’t think it was purposeful, but I wasn’t happy with the desire that we displayed.

The U.S. already had lost to Mexico in the CONCACAF Gold Cup final in July, the first competitive tournament after Berhalter was hired last December and tasked with rebuilding the program. Just 11 months remain before the start of qualifying for the 2022 World Cup.

Canada went ahead in the 63rd minute after Scott Arfield dispossessed Michael Bradley on the edge of the center circle. After several passes, U.S. captain Tim Ream made a poor clearance. The ball was played back toward the American goal, and Arfield’s low cross went across the goalmouth. Davies got behind DeAndre Yedlin and Aaron Long, redirecting the ball in.

“What stands out to me is just the sloppiness with the ball,” Berhalter said. “Too many mis-controlled touches, too many missed passes, too many easy things that we normally make that we weren’t making tonight.”

Jonathan Osorio lifted the ball behind the American defense in the first minute of stoppage time. Cavallini allowed the ball to bounce twice and beat Steffen to the near post with a right-footed shot from 12 yards.

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“We didn’t have the same energy that they did,” star American midfielder Christian Pulisic said. “That’s very disappointing. That’s the one thing that we can control and we weren’t able to tonight.”

Pulisic had a point-blank shot saved by goalkeeper Mi-

lan Borjan in the 51st minute.

“I should have scored no problem,” Pulisic said. “That’s on me. Just wasn’t my day, I guess.”

Pulisic was replaced by Paul Arriola in the 60th minute. Berhalter said Pulisic has been suffering from flu-like symptoms and a “light fever.”

“He wanted to continue,” Berhalter said. “You could see the disappointment in his face.”

The 21st-ranked U.S., coming off last week’s opening 7-0 home rout of Cuba, had nine wins and eight draws against Canada since a 2-0 exhibition defeat at Vancouver, British Columbia, in April 1985.

Canada, ranked 75th, is trying to climb past No. 72 El Salvador and into the top six in the region in FIFA rankings. The June 2020 rankings will be used to determine the nations in the hexagonal will produce the three direct qualifiers from the North and Central American and Caribbean region for the 2022 World Cup.





# Ramsey traded to Rams for 3 draft picks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Rams acquired Jalen Ramsey from the Jaguars on Tuesday night, ending the star cornerback's tumultuous tenure in Jacksonville with a trade to the defending NFC champions.

Jacksonville got first-round picks from the Rams in 2020 and 2021, along with a fourth-round pick in 2021.

Ramsey is one of the NFL's elite defensive backs, earning two Pro Bowl selections and one first-team All-Pro nod in three seasons with Jaguars. The fifth overall pick in the 2016 draft has nine career interceptions along with innumerable conflicts with his coaches, the front office and the Jags' opponents.

One month after he requested a trade, Ramsey is off to the West Coast to join Aaron Donald on the Rams' defense.

Ramsey has missed the Jaguars' last three games with an apparent back injury, but he returned to practice last week. He'll probably need to play immediately with the Rams (3-3), who are without both of their usual starting cornerbacks as they head to Atlanta this weekend.

The defending NFC champions traded cornerback Marcus Peters to Baltimore earlier in the day, getting depth linebacker Kenny Young for a two-time Pro Bowl selection who will be a free agent next year. Los Angeles also put cornerback Aqib Talib on injured reserve Monday after he missed last weekend's loss to San Francisco with a rib injury.

Ramsey had never missed a start in his professional career before his current injury, but that was about the only certainty around the Tennes-



see native who once committed to USC, only to end up at Florida State.

Ramsey's relationship with the Jaguars frayed in recent

months. He had a public spat on the sideline with coach Doug Marrone in Week 2 at Houston, and he clashed with personnel chief Tom Coughlin

after the game.

The Jags made their move five days after owner Shad Khan said he had a "heart to heart" with Ramsey and ex-

In this Sept. 19, 2019, file photo, Jacksonville Jaguars cornerback Jalen Ramsey looks to defend a receiver during the first half of their game against the Tennessee Titans in Jacksonville, Fla.

pected him to play against New Orleans last weekend. Ramsey didn't, prompting Khan's decision to move on from the disgruntled defender.

Ramsey is under contract through the 2020 season after the Jaguars exercised his fifth-year, \$13.7 million option in April—at the same time Ramsey apparently was upsetting Coughlin by skipping the Jags' voluntary offseason workouts.

Coach Sean McVay's Rams have had few problems molding together plenty of strong personalities in recent years, and Ramsey's upside is tremendous—even at the heavy cost of two first-round picks.

Ramsey will join two prominent ex-Jaguars in Los Angeles, all three of whom were top-5 draft picks by Jacksonville.

Pass rusher Dante Fowler re-signed with the Rams after he was traded from Jacksonville at last season's deadline, while quarterback Blake Bortles is Jared Goff's backup after five years with the Jags.

The Rams are on their first three-game losing streak of McVay's tenure, although their sputtering offense likely deserves more blame than the defense.

Los Angeles hasn't made a first-round pick since 2016, when Jared Goff was the first overall selection.

The Rams began their busy day by acquiring offensive lineman Austin Corbett from

the Cleveland Browns. Los Angeles needs a new left guard after Joe Noteboom's season-ending knee injury.

## Titans pick Tannehill over Mariota

Meanwhile, the Tennessee Titans are rolling with Ryan Tannehill

Tennessee is set to start Tannehill at quarterback over incumbent starter Marcus Mariota when it faces the Los Angeles Chargers on Sunday.

The decision comes a couple of days after Titans coach Mike Vrabel yanked Mariota, their longtime starting QB, in favor of Tannehill in the second half of their Week 6 shutout loss at Denver. Mariota completed 7 of 18 passes for 63 yards with two interceptions, the second of which represented the final straw for Vrabel.

Tannehill replaced Mariota in the third quarter and finished the game for Tennessee, completing 13 of 16 passes for 144 yards with an interception. Under Tannehill, the offense at least had a pulse, though both quarterbacks struggled behind another abysmal performance by the offensive line.

Neither quarterback is under contract with the Titans beyond this season.

Mariota had played all but two garbage-time snaps through the first five weeks of the season. He said his benching Sunday was the first time he was pulled in his career due to poor play.

The decision also indicates Tannehill could be the guy for the Titans moving forward. On Monday, Vrabel said during a press conference that, "I don't think the answer is a revolving door at that position."



NEW YORK (AP)—Tiger Woods is writing what he describes as his definitive story in a memoir titled "Back."

HarperCollins Publishers announced Tuesday it has acquired rights to the first memoir written by Woods. Still be determined is when it will be published.

The memoir will cover Woods from his youth as a golf prodigy to his rise as the youngest Masters champion and the only player to hold all four major championships at the same time. It will delve into his slide from injuries and his high-profile personal issues that led to divorce, along with his comeback from four back surgeries to win the Masters at age 43 for his 15th career major.

The only other books to which Woods contributed was

## Woods to write memoir on ups and downs of career

"How I Play Golf" in 2001 with the editors of Golf Digest and "The 1997 Masters: My Story" co-authored by Lorne Rubenstein.

"I've been in the spotlight for a long time, and because of that, there have been books and articles and TV shows about me, most filled with errors, speculative and wrong," Woods said. "This book is my definitive story. It's in my words and expresses my thoughts. It describes how I feel and what's happened in my life. I've been working at it steadily, and I'm looking forward to continuing the process and creating a book that people will want to read."

Woods, who has 81 victories on the PGA Tour and is one short of tying the career record held by Sam Snead, returns to competition next

week in Japan.

## Spieth returns from long break with high hopes

In South Korea, Jordan Spieth returns from his longest break during a calendar year hopeful that a fresh start will end his longest drought.

Spieth hasn't won since the 2017 British Open at Royal Birkdale, a span of 54 tournaments worldwide. He last played in August at the BMW Championship, where he failed to advance to the Tour Championship for the second straight year.

Spieth is at the CJ Cup and plans to stay in Asia another week for the PGA Tour's first event in Japan.

"I certainly want to get back in the winner's circle," Spieth said. "It's been a little while, and I would like to be more

consistent this year, being able to tee it up on Sundays with chances to win more consistently, and that comes from better ball-striking."

Spieth said he has spent time at home in Dallas working on his tee-to-green game. He is coming off one of his best years with the putter—and there have been some good ones—and believes once he gets the rest of his game in order, he'll have more chances.

He had only four top-10 finishes last year, often hurting himself with poor final rounds. The closest he finished to the winner was four shots behind in The Northern Trust, the first FedEx Cup playoff event.

"Each part of my game at different points in my career has been toward the top of the PGA Tour at different times, and sometimes at the

same time," Spieth said. "So I know that I'm capable of doing it. It's just a matter of the normal ups and downs of the game and addressing them, and quickly turning the downs to ups and then maintaining when those parts of the game are on top."

Except for the location, the "World" in Hero World Challenge seems to be lacking this year.

Tournament host Tiger Woods released the names of the 16 players who qualified for the 18-man field on Dec. 4-7 in the Bahamas. With two sponsor exemptions still to award, all but two players are Americans—defending champion Jon Rahm of Spain and Justin Rose of England, whose main residence is at Albany.

That would be the fewest international players since 2012

at Sherwood Country Club in California, when the only non-Americans were Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland, Jason Day of Australia and Ian Poulter of England. McDowell won the tournament.

The field has two of the major champions in Woods (Masters) and Gary Woodland (U.S. Open).

It doesn't help that the Presidents Cup in Australia is the following week, and International captain Ernie Els is encouraging his prospective players to compete in the Australian Open the week before, opposite the Hero World Challenge.

Nine international players from outside Europe were among the top 50 on Aug. 26, the world ranking used to determine the Bahamas field. The most obvious absence is Hideki Matsuyama, who had played the World Challenge every year since 2015.



# DC Classic winner: Try bodybuilding

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

Marianas High School student Jaivan Dela Pena hopes

to inspire his fellow youth to get into bodybuilding after winning in the 9th Dee Clayton Classic Bodybuilding and



Fitness Championship last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Club Saipan.

Dela Pena—the overall winner in the Physique Division—encouraged those who want to try bodybuilding to take the plunge and just go for it.

“There are opportunities for you guys, so go for it and better yourself, do it and just go for it. I did this to inspire all teens,” the MHS senior said.

Last Saturday’s event was Dela Pena’s first time to compete in the DC Classic and he vows it won’t be his last.

“I didn’t know I was going to win overall because after I got third place for Classic Physique, I thought it was over and I felt like I wouldn’t win anything at all. But hard work pays off and I got the overall physique and I’m happy for that. I will do it again,” Dela Pena said.

While Dela Pena is a newcomer, Natalia Larina competed in the DC Classic for the second straight year and



defended her title in the Bikini Division. She returned to the competition because she grew to love the sport and it has motivated her to work on herself.

“It’s better to just make a goal, and then do whatever you can to achieve this goal. It’s not impossible. I will think about joining again next

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Marianas High School’s Jaivan Dela Pena poses for the judges during last Saturday’s 9th Dee Clayton Classic Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

year,” Larina said.

Jerome Diyco is another repeat participant and was named overall winner in the Classic Physique. He also won in his DC Classic debut last year, but not overall, so the results from his second tournament surprised him.

“I wasn’t expecting to win overall for Classic Physique. It was an amazing journey to be coached by Aaron Tomokane and Gerald Galang. They’ve been with me through it all. Without their guidance, I wouldn’t have been able to achieve what I did last Saturday,” he said.

“What I did different this year was we adjusted my carb cycle, we just kept everything in check, I just kept going back to my coaches and making sure I am on the right track every single week,” Diyco added.

## TDI defeats McDonald’s

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER



Top Development Inc. routed McDonald’s, 84-65, during the lone game played in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

TDI prevailed by catching up with McDonald’s in the second quarter and gaining more cushion in the third period en route to the 19-point winning margin.

Behind at 26-15 after the first period, TDI drew 9 points from Darwin Barbo and 9 more from Raymond Velasco and Sean Rabasto to steal the lead at the break, 37-36.

Before losing the driver’s seat to TDI, McDonald’s earned a double-digit advantage after the first 10 minutes of play behind the 7 first-quarter points of Jaymark De Guzman and 5 each from Justine and McClain Achas.

After a strong start, McDonald’s was held to 10 points in the second quarter and was still outgunned by TDI in the third, 29-19, al-

lowing the latter to take a 66-55 lead going into the final canto. Rabasto showed the way for TDI in the penultimate frame, as he fired 11 markers, while Velasco added 9, and Barbo chipped in 7.

Top Development never relinquished the double-digit lead in the fourth quarter, as Rabasto and Velasco still hit their targets, while McDonald’s was limited to 10 points, anew.

Rabasto finished with a game-high 25 points, while Velasco and Barbo contributed 24 and 20, respectively. De Guzman had 17 for McDonald’s and was the lone double-figure scorer for the losing squad.

Meanwhile, the other match last Tuesday was won by Star Water via default against TanHoldings 2/CTSI.

**TDI 84**—Rabasto 25, Velasco 24, Barbo 20, Polisco 12, Arreza 3.

**McDonald’s 65**—De Guzman 17, Macaranas 9, Fidelino 8, Mi Achas 7, Mc Achas 6, J. Achas 5, Ladra 5, Jo. Achas 2, C. Achas 2, Mettao 2, Misaro 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 15-26, 37-36, 66-55, 84-65.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE  
Top Development, Inc.’s Nestor Arreza floats for a short jumper during an earlier game against TanHoldings 1 in the JP World caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

## IT&E

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points, Gerald Flores added 28, while Marlon De Dios and Bart Demapan chipped in 23 and 22, respectively.

The quartet combined for 30 points in the first quarter alone, lifting IT&E to a 36-21 advantage. Flores and De Dios then kept going in the

second frame with the former making 13 points and the latter adding 10 for their 67-44 lead at the break.

It was all over for TanHoldings after that, as it could not match the offensive firepower of IT&E’s gunners.

Peredo and Demapan finished off TanHoldings after teaming up for 24 points in the final quarter.

## Saturday Game

**IT&E 100**—Esdelon 21, Aranda 17, Flores 13, Rabasto 12, Demapan 9, Barbo 8, Peredo 6, De Dios 5, De Guzman 4, Talania 4.

**Mystique 76**—Jandoc 15, Bernardo 12, Jose 9, Broncano 8, Moises 7, Galulu 6, Tekopua 5, Torres 5, Isip 5, Castillo 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 31-

21, 57-37, 77-54, 100-76.

## Tuesday Game

**IT&E 126**—Peredo 32, Flores 28, De Dios 23, Demapan 22, Talania 10, Esdelon 8, De Guzman 3.

**TanHoldings 83**—Dayao 33, Tenepere 16, Torregosa 16, Lumen 12, Echavez 6.

**Scoring by quarters:** 36-21, 67-44, 92-62, 126-83.

## SAME

From Page 28

logged the two goals for MP United with the latter lighting up the board in the 43rd minute and the former doing the same in the 63rd.

In other results in the division, Kanoa eased past Shirley’s Football Club, 11-2.

Kanoa now has a 3-0-1 win-draw-loss record to lurk behind TanHoldings, while Shirley’s is still winless in four matches.

Paul Lizama and Rigel Divey joined forces in demolishing Shirley’s, as they registered five goals apiece. Raymond Deijillas posted the

other goal for Kanoa, while Jayvin Bisek and Mohamad Khan scored for Shirley’s.

## BOYS U15 DIVISION Kanoa 13, Shirley’s 2

Kanoa and Shirley’s also crossed paths in the boys U15 division game last weekend and the match had the same results.

Ruben Guerrero and Jim Kurt Maniago recorded three goals apiece in Kanoa’s rout of Shirley’s, while Sean Gil, Brian Lubao, and Markus Toves contributed two each. Christian Kimura rounded out Kanoa’s scorers, while Shirley’s two goals came from Gabriel Arkoh Jr.

With the easy win, Kanoa

improved its record to 3-1-0 to lead the five-team division.

Meanwhile, the other match in the boys U15 age group had TanHoldings getting a free 3-0

win (forfeit) over Matansa.

TanHoldings notched victory No. 2, while Matansa absorbed its third loss in as many matches.

## 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League

TEAM STANDINGS (As of Oct. 14, 2019)

### CO-ED U12 DIVISION

CLUB	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
TanHoldings	4	0	0	25	9	16	12
Kanoa	3	0	1	16	7	9	9
MP United	1	0	3	21	12	9	3
Shirley’s	0	0	4	7	41	-34	0

### BOYS U15

CLUB	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	3	1	0	24	5	19	10
MP United	2	1	0	10	4	6	7
TanHoldings	2	0	1	5	5	0	6
Matansa	0	0	3	3	9	-6	0
Shirley’s	0	0	3	4	23	-19	0

## SWEEP

From Page 28

row’s last batch of games in the regular season. Saipan Southern has one more game left (versus Mt. Carmel School 2) in the elimination and is in a good position to advance to the playoffs.

League organizers have yet to announce whether the Top 6 or Top 8 teams will move into the double-elimination playoffs this weekend, pending confirmation from Tinian and Rota squads. If only the Top

6 will march on to the next round, the Manta Rays need to win their match tomorrow.

In its pair of games in the penultimate day of the regular season, Saipan Southern took three sets to beat Agape and two to down MHS 1. The Manta Rays lost the closely fought first set, 26-22, but came back in the second with a 25-17 triumph. Saipan Southern then got the win after prevailing in the deciding third set, 15-10. Versus MHS 1, the Manta Rays posted a 25-20 victory

in the first set and completed the sweep with a tougher 30-28 win.

In other results last Tuesday, Grace Christian Academy and Saipan International School 1 kept their winning streak after downing MHS 2 and SIS 2, respectively.

SIS 1 cruised to a 25-4 win in the first set of the all-Lady Geckos showdown and had another easy victory in the second, 25-12, for an impressive 8-0 record.

GCA also took only two sets to beat MHS 2, 25-10, 25-

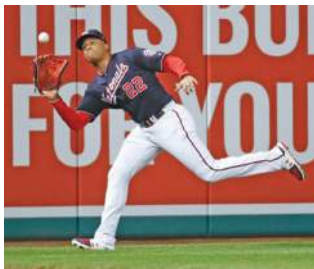
18. GCA will square off with SIS 1 tomorrow to determine the top-ranked team going into the weekend’s tournament.

Meanwhile, Mt. Carmel 1 and Kagman High School prevailed in the other matches last Tuesday.

The Lady Knights outlasted Agape in three sets, 25-19, 22-25, 15-6, for their 3-5 record, while Agape dropped to a 2-6 mark and may not make it to the playoffs.

Kagman also improved to a 3-5 slate following its 25-22, 25-20 triumph over MHS 2.





DC in World Series for 1st time since 1933

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

LeBron's comments on China tweet draw flak

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E's Jaymark De Guzman, center, goes up for a shot against Mystique BBQ's Mii Tekopua, right, and Ariel Moises during their game in the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

## Too easy for IT&E

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

IT&E notched a pair of wins in lopsided fashion to remain at the top half of the team standings in the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League.

IT&E first hammered Mystique BBQ last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, 100-76, and then pounced on TanHoldings last Tuesday, 126-83, to improve to a 6-1 record for second place, just slightly behind league-leading Saipan Vegas (6-0). Mystique is done for the season and has been ousted with its 2-7 mark, joining TanHoldings (0-7) in the showers, as only the Top 4 teams after the round-robin elimination will advance to the playoffs.

Elmer Esdrelon top-scored for IT&E in their rout of Mystique after firing 21 points. He knocked in two early triples and finished the first quarter with 10 markers to give IT&E a 31-21 advantage.

IT&E went on to widen



the gap in second period after a 16-4 run in the first six minutes of that canto and wrapped up the opening half with a 57-37 lead. It was still all

IT&E in the second half, as each player it fielded in the game found ways to contribute to the team's cause, while only Jetzen Jandoc countered for Mystique.

Jandoc led Mystique with his 15 markers.

Meanwhile, the playoff-bound IT&E drew 20-plus points from four players, as the winning squad toyed around the defense of TanHoldings for the lopsided victory.

Errol Peredo sizzled for 32

See IT&E on Page 27

## Same leaders in NMIFA Youth League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



TanHoldings Football Club and Kanoa Football Club are still the pacesetters in their respective competitions in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League after posting contrasting wins last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

In the co-ed U12 age group, TanHoldings remained undefeated in four games and ahead in the four-team division after nipping MP United, 3-2.

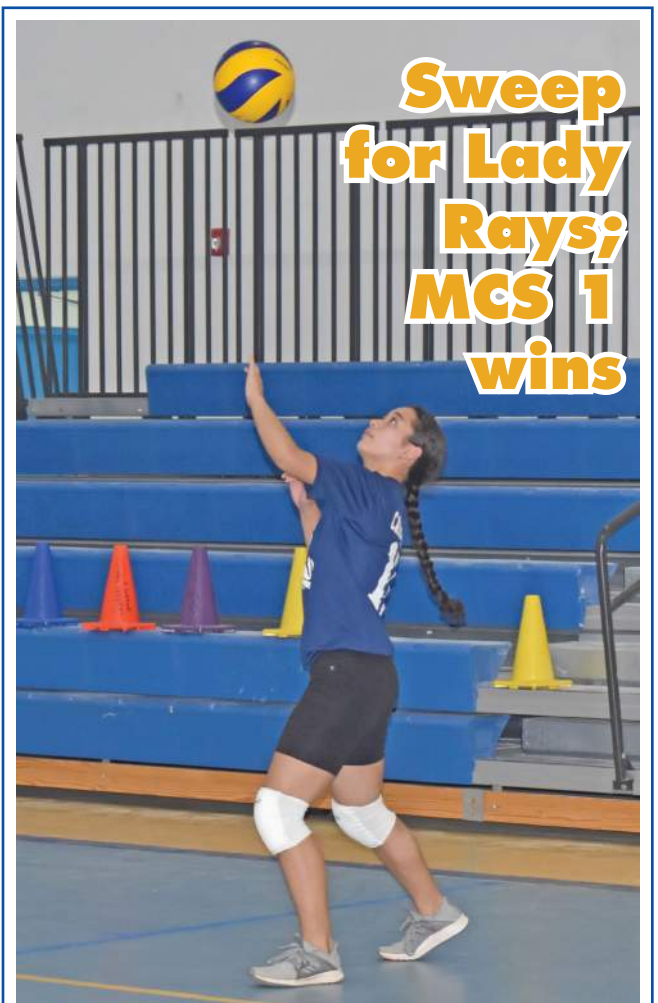
Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez lifted TanHoldings to the close win after making a hat trick, as she scored in the 34th, 45th, and 51st minute of the game. Takeru Jim and Jeff Kim

See SAME on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings Football Club's Jerald Dalawampu, second left, reaches in for the ball during their game against MP United Football Club in the co-ed U12 division of the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A Mt. Carmel School players goes for an overhand serve during an earlier game against Kagman High School in the 2019-2020 PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Saipan Southern High School went 2-0 last Tuesday to climb up the ladder in the 2019-2020 PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League.

The Lady Manta Rays defeated Agape Christian School and Marianas High School 1 last Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium to improve their record to 4-4 and move from eighth to a tie for the fourth place (with MHS 1) in the team standings going into tomorrow.

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